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**Out and about with The GEM**  
 See page 14

**SIX NATIONS RUGBY: WALES STILL IN THE TITLE RACE**  
 BACK PAGE COMMENT - PAGE 44

**GEM FACEBOOK FEATURE**  
 See Page 19



Residents in a Kenfig Hill sheltered housing complex have raised a record sum for Macmillan Cancer Support. (See full story on page 5.)

## Children left in cold after callous gas meter theft

**CHILDREN** attending Brownies, Cubs, Guides and a playgroup in Pen-y-Fai were left in the cold for a week in January, after thieves stole the gas meter from their Scout hall.

**REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN**

water etc." He continued: "Unfortunately, this additional cost has come at a very bad time, as we have been working hard to raise funds to buy new flooring for the hall, along with a new stage."

"We have also had to undertake some plumbing repair and incurred additional water usage with an underground pipe leak at the hall."

"The committee is very small and work tirelessly to get as much interest and support into funding the hall so that the local community and groups can use the premises and give the young members somewhere to go in safety."

"We would like to thank everyone for their support and patience, and would especially like to thank CST Renewables for their prompt support in dealing with this situation and switching things back on."

"No one can believe this theft has occurred in Pen-y-Fai, which is a very nice village with a good community feel".

He added: "It's especially disgusting that this theft occurred at a hall which has very young children using it."

"The playgroup uses the hall Monday to Friday during the day and Scouts, Explorers, Cubs, Beavers, Brownies and Rainbows use the hall in the evenings, as well as a local keep fit club."

"On weekends, parties and various Scout and guiding activities take place and work has been done over the last year to refurbish the hall."

"There is also additional work planned to update the hall. We have already re-boarded the walls to clear any asbestos and make it safe. For that project, the committee rallied together to decorate with paint supplied by a company at a discounted price."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

## Scarlets' rugby player cleared

AFTER retiring for four-and-a-half hours, a jury at Cardiff Crown Court unanimously cleared a Scarlets rugby player of allegations that he punched a man to the head, fracturing a cheekbone, during an incident in a Porthcawl nightclub, writes AJ SICLUNA.

Kyle Evans, 24, said he believed Jamie Smith was about to punch him and in self defence "palmed" him in the face with his hand, above which was his arm in a splint.

Evans, of Beach Road, Pyle, was found not guilty of a charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm.

Prosecutor Mike Hammett said Mr Smith and his then fiancée had gone to the Porthcawl Hotel and later went to Streets Nightclub to celebrate the 2014 New Year.

They were sitting down when a man stumbled into them, causing his drink to go over Mr Smith's friend.

Mr Smith spoke to the man and it was alleged that Evans went across to assist, lost his temper and struck him on the left cheek, fracturing it.

Evans left the premises and a short time later was arrested.

Detective Constable Hugh Lewis said that when he interviewed Evans, he said Mr Smith had been abusive and aggressive, and because he believed he was about to be struck, he "palmed" him in the face.

He denied at any time striking him with a clenched fist.

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## 'It's Time to Talk' says Ogmores MP



Ogmores MP Huw Irranca-Davies has signed up to a campaign to improve mental health services.

**HUW Irranca-Davies, MP for Ogmores, has signed the 'Time to Talk' pledge to battle the stigma and discrimination attached to mental health.**

The pledge was signed by a number of Labour MPs ahead of Time to Talk Day on February 5. On this day, MPs were encouraged to have a conversation with a constituent who has experience of dealing with mental health.

The pledge was supported by the Time to Change programme and the Labour Campaign for Mental Health.

Talking about the pledge, Huw Irranca-Davies said: "The 'Time to Talk' campaign is an excellent way of

encouraging people to talk about mental health issues."

"We all have mental health, and one in four of us will be affected by mental illness in any one year.

Given that mental health is such an integral part of our lives, it is imperative that people feel able to speak out about their own experiences."

In Mr Irranca-Davies's constituency, a group of local men have set up The Squirrel's Nest, a wood workshop in Tondur for men who are facing mental health issues.

The facility allows men to practice a creative skill as well as providing a social space where they can talk about their own experiences of mental health.

## Novelist to read in Porthcawl

**SUSTAINABLE Wales welcomes Jo Mazelis to its Green Room performance space, at 5, James Street, Porthcawl, 8pm, Friday, February 27.**

Although she's a very successful short story writer, *Significance* (Seren) is Jo Mazelis's first novel.

It deals with the life of Lucy Snow, who, seeking a new direction, moves to France.

Or is she running away? - "Lucy wants all of it gone".

*Significance* follows the consequences of her decision.

Jo Mazelis has been a graphic designer and photographer, as well as a writer, working on magazines in London.

She lives and writes in her hometown, Swansea.

Jo's reading will be followed by questions, opportunities to purchase her books, and the popular Green Room open mic for others to perform their work.

For more details, contact 01656 773627; entrance is £3. **RM**

### Lib-Dem advice

**WELSH Liberal Democrat AM for south Wales west, Peter Black, will hold an advice surgery tomorrow (Friday, February 20) in Maesteg Library from 2pm - 3pm. No appointment is necessary.**

### Carnival theme

**THE Porthcawl Buckaneers' carnival theme will be 'Science Fiction' on Saturday, July 18 and an open meeting will be held on March 17 at 7.30pm in the Hi Tide Inn to make plans.**

Anyone interested in assisting, entering a float/walker or putting up stall, can attend, or contact Kerry Marlow at marlowk@sky.com.

## Readers' Letters

**Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk**

**LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER**

**IMPORTANT:** We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

## SPEAKING UP FOR THE WELSH NHS....

**ON the evening of Monday, February 9, while practising some inadequate kitchen knife skills, I cut my hand.**

Although the cut appeared quite deep, I did not feel it severe enough to trouble staff at already overworked accident and emergency department at my local hospital in Morriston. I commenced to self

### 'No plans for deeply flawed cancer drugs fund' - says Minister

**I WRITE in response to the article 'Call for a cancer treatment fund', published in your paper on February 5, 2015.**

In it, Suzy Davies AM refers to a recent opinion poll commissioned by BBC Wales which she claims shows 72 per cent of people support the introduction of a cancer drugs fund in Wales.

As a Government, we have expressed serious concerns about the wording of the question, which I strongly believe your readers should be aware of.

The question asked was: 'In England, NHS money is ring-fenced for the cancer drugs fund. In Wales, funding for cancer drugs is treated in the same way as funding for drugs for all other illnesses. Do you believe money for cancer should be protected?'

We strongly dispute the fairness of the way this question is worded.

Firstly, it does not make clear that the cancer drugs fund ring-fencing in England is at the expense of funding for drugs for other

conditions, or secondly that spending on cancer is already higher per head in Wales than in England.

And since the question does not make clear that the cancer drugs fund in England only supports drugs which have not been clinically judged as cost-effective, means those being questioned do not have enough information to come to a balanced judgement on this issue.

Simply asking whether 'money for cancer should be protected' is a gross oversimplification of the issue.

We have no plans to introduce a cancer drugs fund in Wales. It is a deeply-flawed policy and even England is now removing many of the treatments currently available through their fund due to rising costs.

The Welsh Government is proud of its record on cancer treatment and patient access to clinically-proven drugs. We do not have to rely on badly-worded opinion polls to make our case.

**Vaughan Gething AM, Deputy Minister for Health**

treat the wound with some plasters and a bandage.

In any event, by the morning of Wednesday, February 11, it was evident that the cut was a little more unpleasant than I had first thought.

I work in the Bridgend area and decided after all of my best intentions to attend the accident and emergency department at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

It was my first visit to the hospital in any capacity and as I entered the waiting room, I could see that there were several people already in attendance.

At the reception area, the female receptionist dealt with me in a very polite and friendly manner, obtaining my details and asking me to take a seat.

A very short time later, my name was called by a nurse, who I subsequently found to be Nurse Practitioner Buddug Roberts.

I was taken to a treatment area where my poorly dressed wound was dealt with. The nurse was very kind and empathetic towards me, treating me with good humour, even though in the grand scale of things my wound was relatively minor in comparison to what I assume is dealt with on a daily basis.

In the true spirit of the National Health service, she gave me the impression that at that moment in time treating me was her highest priority.

I was dealt with from start to finish in less than 40 minutes - it took me longer to park the car.

All too often patients are ready to complain about poor service. In order to help balance the books I felt, on leaving the hospital, that as I had experienced the best that the NHS has to offer, I needed to report on my positive experience.

While my injury is relatively minor, I felt it was important to point out the excellent care which I was afforded by the staff, in particular Nurse Practitioner Buddug Roberts, who are a credit to the hospital, as well as the NHS as a whole.

**Phil Jones, Swansea.**

## Mayor thanks a Good Samaritan

**I HAVE been asked by the Mayor of Maesteg Town Council (Coun Philip W Jenkins) to request you to publish his sincere thanks to the lady who remained at the scene of the accident on the M4 on Saturday, January 24, which involved several vehicles, including a coach full of residents from the Maesteg area.**

Fortunately, no-one was seriously hurt, and Coun Jenkins is grateful to this lady for the support and kindness she showed to those involved.

**Joan Fielding, Maesteg Town Council.**

## Local planning applications

**Greggs PLC - Unit 2, New Road Court, Porthcawl - Illuminated fascia and hanging signs and non illuminated laminated cards; New shopfront and air conditioning units. Mr David Rogers - Castle Street (former nightclub), Maesteg - Six fascia signs. The Tree Surgeons Limited - 47 High Street, Laleston - Fell Ash tree and replace with suitable tree(s). Joanna Washbourne-Davies - 55 Priory Avenue, Bridgend - Proposed granny annexe to side of dwelling.**

**Persimmon Homes West Wales - Plots 51-54, Cilgant y Lein (land at Ty Draw Farm), North Cornelly - Substitution of house types on plots 51-54 (P/12/796/FUL). Mr Gareth Evans - Land adjacent 16A Danycoed, Blackmill - Proposed construction of two bedroom dormer bungalow; re-submission of P/14/687/FUL. Ford Motor Company - Ford Engine Plant, Waterton Industrial Estate, Bridgend - Non-material amendment to approval P/13/930/FUL.**

**HD Limited - Cae Court, 12 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend - Proposed extension to provide additional kitchen prep and store area. Mrs Rhian Richards - 9 Highland Close, Sarn - Rear dormer to provide two bedrooms and one ensuite bathroom. Mr Mark Cooke - 2 Maesteg Road, Tondur - Two storey rear extension. RS Properties - 39 Oxford Street, Pontycymmer - Change of use of shop to dwelling incorporating new front elevation.**

## Why Wales truly is the land of song

NEWS FROM NEWTON WI

**THE February meeting was chaired by the deputy president Jan Mosley when all relative business was discussed and minutes approved.**

The speaker this month was Dean Powell, who gave us a very interesting talk on 'Treorchy' and the Land of Song'. How music has helped the Welsh to project themselves through choirs (choral and male voice), soloists, and instrumental (harp and brass bands).

Music galvanised communities, especially in the mining areas, giving people a way of expressing themselves after long dark days underground.

Music is still, of course, an important part of Welsh culture.

Members thanked the committee for the delicious buffet provided at the Christmas party, and also said how much they all enjoyed the entertainment (ukulele band).

Thanks also to Shirley for organising the splendid 'pantomime' trip to Cardiff.

Members are all looking forward to the Federation lunch and fashion show in April.

A warm welcome was extended to new members. We hope they will enjoy their time with us.

For more information, please telephone Pearl Mason on 01656 772657.

**M Freeman**

## When a million pounds went up in smoke..!

**AT the February meeting of Sker WI the speaker, Mr Derrick Warren, gave a talk on 'The day I burned a million pounds'.**

He had worked at Battersea Power Station which opened in 1938 - there were nine furnaces about 30ft square in the building.

He recalled that during the war, Germany printed counterfeit English money which the Allies confiscated, and it was destroyed at

Battersea. The power station closed in 1983 and became a protected building.

The craft group meet every Wednesday afternoon, with a variety of crafts being pursued.

The next meeting of the branch will be on Thursday, March 12 at 7pm in St David's Church Hall, Nottage, with a talk by Mrs Ceri Joseph on 'Porthcawl during the War'. Anyone wishing to join us is very welcome.

**Ann Vipond**

### HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 26)

*The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.*

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
19 Thur	06.31	10.5	18.58	10.4
20 Fri	07.18	10.8	19.42	10.6
21 Sat	07.59	10.9	20.22	10.7
22 Sun	08.47	10.7	21.04	10.4
23 Mon	09.28	10.2	21.47	9.9
24 Tues	10.10	9.6	22.31	9.2
25 Wed	10.57	9.0	23.21	8.5
26 Thur	11.53	8.2		

*While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.*

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# Two years' jail for Maesteg man who attacked woman

A MAN who attacked a woman with whom he had had a "casual relationship" for two weeks, has been jailed for two years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Gary George, 34, of Caerau Road, Maesteg, had admitted wounding Stevie Jones.

Judge David Hale told him, "You were drinking together and for some reason, you lost your temper and caused her substantial injury."

"It was a repeated attack, you even put your hands around her throat. I give you credit for your guilty plea at the first opportunity."

## CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

Prosecutor John Lloyd said that on December 23, the pair were drinking together at his flat when, for no reason, he carried out an attack upon her.

"She blacked out, and when she came to, he was still punching her, and said he was going to kill her."

She ran into a neighbour's house for help and shortly before she did, George kicked her twice.

Miss Jones suffered cuts and bruises. When arrested and interviewed, George

said: "No comment."

He was said to have previous convictions for domestic assault, escaping from custody, and causing damage.

His counsel, Stuart McLeese, said: "He has not spent all his life offering violence to women. In the past, he trained as a chef."

He conceded that there were "troubling aspects" to the offence.

Mr McLeese added: "He is sorry for what happened to this lady. By his plea, he has prevented her coming to court and reliving the incident."

The judge made a restraining order preventing George contacting the victim for life.

# Tory challenge to council over taxi licensing

REGIONAL AM Suzy Davies is to challenge Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) about the way it runs taxi licensing in the area.

Mrs Davies, who was accompanied by Bridgend parliamentary Conservative candidate Meirion Jenkins, met Paul Pride who is a taxi driver campaigning on behalf of taxi operators in the borough.

They are complaining that BCBC is the only council in Wales that demands three inspections a year for vehicles which are more than five years old.

Mrs Davies said "We have been in touch with every council in Wales. Bridgend is on its own in demanding tests every four months for cars aged five years and over."

"Other councils either have annual or six monthly tests for such vehicles. It's only when the cars get to eight or ten years old that other councils start demanding extra checks."

"I fully accept arguments about ensuring vehicle safety, but why does BCBC insist on this extra test? Each test costs



ABOVE: Suzy Davies, Meirion Jenkins and Paul Pride.

£46 so Mr Pride and his MOT station.

"It would be more convenient for taxi owners if they could take the car to their nearest testing station instead of having to trek to the council's depot at Waterton."

"Does the council need extra business to improve the viability of its motor workshops where the tests are conducted?"

Suzy Davies is also asking for details of the running costs of BCBC's motor workshops and of the other work carried out there.

"I'm not clear why BCBC insists on an in-house testing service for taxis. If the government-

inspected MOT testing stations are good enough for every other car in the country, why does the council not think they are good enough for taxis in Bridgend? Ten of the 22 councils in Wales allow taxi owners to use an

## Murder, music and mayhem... as the youth theatre tells the story of Dr Jekyll



'GOTCHA!'

LEFT: The Bridgend Youth Theatre's production of Jekyll and Hyde - The Musical opened last night (Wednesday) at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl. Pictured during rehearsals is Tom Elliot (right) who plays Jekyll, despatching one of Hyde's many victims, played by Tom Coster.

There are two performances today (Thursday) at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, and two more tomorrow, Friday, at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

The GEM dropped in to rehearsals and saw that the cast were well on their way to producing another show that lives up to the Bridgend Youth Theatre's extremely high standards!

## 'Join us for tea' elderly people urged

MONTHLY get-togethers run by the Contact the Elderly charity are in danger of closing, due to lack of numbers.

Monthly tea parties are held for small groups of older people, aged 75 and above, who live alone and welcome company on a Sunday afternoon.

"Each guest is collected from their home by a volunteer driver and taken to a volunteer host's home, where they meet with a small group for tea, chat and friendship."

The group is welcomed by a different host each month, but the drivers remain the same," explained Contact the Elderly's Wales Development Officer, Sian Llewellyn.

"For older people who live alone, Sundays can be particularly long and difficult."

"These tea parties give people a chance to get together with others, make new friends, eat delicious cakes and enjoy a cup of tea."

"The monthly events make a real difference to the lives of those in the group and we would encourage anyone interested in coming along, or those who know of people to whom it might appeal."

to get in touch."

Bridgend residents, aged 75 and above, who live alone and are interested in joining the Bridgend Contact the Elderly group can contact Sian Llewellyn on 01597 822351, or email sian.llewellyn@contact-the-elderly.org.uk

## Secrets of the garden shed!

"WHAT does she do in the shed?" was the intriguing title of a talk at Pencoed WI and the speaker Pat Johnson had our full attention before she even began to speak.

She was very interesting and funny and gave us food for thought. I have a shed and I wasn't the only person thinking about changing its use from storing old garden tools and the recycling boxes into something more ambitious!

Four of our members took part in the federation whist drive and they didn't disgrace themselves.

Our darts team are all looking forward to the competition on February 18 and members are also joining in the federation's guided tour of Bristol.

For further information about Pencoed WI, call Val on 01656 862181, or Pat on 01656 860289.

(Oh, and what did she do in the shed? I'll tell you next time!)

PP

## Floral extravaganza

COYCHURCH and Pencoed WI members travelled together to the Aberavon Hotel, Port Talbot recently, to enjoy the first organised centenary event in Glamorgan.

After lunch, members enjoyed an extravaganza of arrangements created by Daphne Furness by using items from the decades, such as an enamel bowl and jug, a tray and recycled

containers to house the fabulous, colourful varied flowers and greenery to create the fantastic arrangements.

All the arrangements were raffled and a delighted Elaine Edmunds of Coychurch WI won the first prize; a magnificent arrangement comprising of gerberas, tulips, Michaelmas daisies, fern and trailing ivy.

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# NEW TAX POWERS WILL HELP MEET HOUSING NEEDS...

**L**AST week, I tabled my supplementary Budget for this financial year for scrutiny and debate on March 10 in the Senedd; it accounts for changes that have been made to the Budget over the past year to meet priority areas and respond to pressures, such as in housing and health needs.

On the day I published the Budget, I announced an additional £5.8 million for social housing, which I allocated from our

reserves to the delivery of affordable homes across Wales.

This includes funding for every local authority area in Wales, including £183,220 for the Vale of Glamorgan. In my statement accompanying this announcement, I said that investing in housing is a key part of our Wales infrastructure investment plan and will make a real difference to the lives of people across Wales, whilst also acting as an economic stimulus supporting growth and jobs.

On March 12, I look forward to welcoming Lesley Griffiths AM, Minister for Communities and

Tackling Poverty, to the opening of the new social housing development on Thompson Street, with financial support from the Welsh Government.

Investing in housing is a key priority of the Welsh Government, so this latest announcement adds to the £5 million I approved in the autumn to support Home Improvement Loans.

Despite the significant financial constraints placed on our budgets, we will have invested an additional £10.8 million in housing from our reserves in 2014-15.

The Welsh Government has an ambitious target of building 10,000 affordable homes by May 2016 and we have already delivered almost 7,000 homes in this Assembly term.

We have also invested in the popular Help to Buy - Wales scheme, which helps first time buyers get a

## GUEST COLUMN



by  
**Jane Hutt**  
AM (Minister for Finance)

foot on the property ladder and we have supported local authorities with the Houses into Homes programme - bringing empty properties back into use as homes.

Lesley Griffiths AM also introduced the new Renting Homes (Wales) Bill last week, reminding us that one in three people now live in a rented home.

In her introduction to the Bill, she said it would result in much greater clarity and

consistency in the rights and responsibilities of those who rent their homes, whether as a tenant or licensee, as well as the rights and responsibilities of landlords.

An important feature of this Bill is the help it will give to victims of domestic violence, targeting the perpetrators for evictions. The Bill also makes it possible for young people to rent, enhances succession rights and establishes a legal framework for supported housing.

Last week, I also launched the consultation for the new land transaction tax for Wales - the first Welsh tax for over 800 years.

In April 2018, the Stamp Duty Land Tax will be fully devolved to Wales and the income from this tax will be collected in Wales and will be the responsibility of the Welsh Government.

We are consulting on a replacement tax for

Wales which affects people as home buyers and sellers, as builders and as businesses renting premises.

Already devolved to Scotland and with a major reform announced in the autumn statement by the UK Government, this tax will now be our responsibility.

We can help shape the new tax through this consultation with Assembly Members, passing this legislation in due course.

When I announced my principles for Welsh taxes, I made it clear that it is important to develop taxes which are fair to people and businesses and which support growth and jobs and help tackle poverty and support communities.

With new powers come new responsibilities - but the people of Wales can play their part in helping us to meet their needs.

## North Cornelly Post Office is on the move

**NORTH CORNELLY Post Office** is on the move to a nearby site in a new modern open-plan branch with longer opening hours for customers, following a successful public consultation.

The new branch will be located a short distance from its current site at 4, Hall Drive, North Cornelly. The new service is being moved to 61, Heol Fach, North Cornelly, Bridgend.

Post Office regional network manager, Simon Drinkwater, said: "We understand how important having access to high quality Post Office service is to residents in North Cornelly and we are confident that this new modern branch will meet the needs of the local community and secure services for the future."

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## Lest We forget – 'The Arsenal' at Bridgend Are YOU in the picture?



Workers waiting to take the bus home from the Arsenal.

**THE Royal Ordnance Factory at Bridgend** – affectionately known as 'The Arsenal' – was situated on the site now occupied by the Bridgend Trading Estate. Unless you know where to look for it, there is very little evidence left now to show that 'The Arsenal' ever existed.

The photographs were taken on October 20, 1943, at the bus terminal outside the present South Wales Police Headquarters Building. The buses, dream photographs for transport buffs, show Western Welsh AEC and Leyland half-cabs, as well as AEC Grey Utility Double Deckers. They were there to transport workers back and forth between their homes or hostels and 'The Arsenal'.

Look out for more information and photographs of 'The Arsenal' in next week's GEM.

Are you in the picture above? If so, contact Keith E Morgan, GEM photo-journalist, on 01656 788150, or e-mail [keithmorgan@talktalk.net](mailto:keithmorgan@talktalk.net)



Shanna Bell (left) and Amelia Powell.

## Wick girls are running for local charity

**TWO pupils from Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School** are on the run for a popular local charity.

Amelia Powell (8) and Shanna Bell (7) both from Wick, have decided they would like to help children who are unwell and need respite care by raising money for them. They have registered for a sponsored 5K run, along with their mums, in the annual Rainbow Run at Porthcawl on Saturday, April 18. All proceeds will go to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice.

Amelia and Shanna have to raise at least £70 each to take part and their target has had a healthy boost already by a generous donation of £25 from Filco Foods.

As they are both keen bakers, they will be running a stall offering cakes for a small donation at St Illtud's Church in Llantwit Major after the Mothering Sunday Service on March 15. The girls look forward to seeing you there! **DP**

## COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

**BRIDGEND Writers' Circle open short story competition** attracted 44 entries, almost half of those from the Bridgend area, and the rest mainly from south Wales and England.

The standard was high and a shortlist of eight stories was drawn up. The final judgement rested on local poet and musician Rhian Edwards (*Clueless Dogs*, Wales Book of the Year 2013).

**RESULTS**  
'Georges' Bridge', by Jennifer Rainbow (Bridgend): 1st prize (a writing course at Ty Newydd worth £500, donated by Literature Wales).

'Dulce et Decorum Est', by Joanne Derrick (Rugby): 2nd prize (a Silver Friends Membership of Chapter

Arts Centre and a set of signed new Mabinogion stories donated by Seren, our Bridgend publisher).

'Crossing the Divide', by Elizabeth Mahoney (Bridgend): 3rd prize (a Silver Friends Membership and An Evening at Chapter Arts Centre).

We thank our sponsors and also Lynne Jones of Artful Yoga in Maesteg for making this competition possible.

The three stories can be read on our website and will be included in the group's 40th anniversary anthology. Congratulations to the winners and well done to all the participants who worked hard to send their stories.

**JANINE ENOS**  
(Open competition co-ordinator)

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# Sheltered housing staff and tenants raise £2,455 for Macmillan cause

**MACMILLAN Cancer Support has said thank you to staff and tenants at Llys Cynffig sheltered housing in Pyle.**

The group of dedicated charity fundraisers worked tirelessly to raise a record £2,455.41 – and Nicola Newhams, fundraising manager at Macmillan, said: "It never ceases to amaze and inspire me just how much time and commitment our supporters give to Macmillan."

"Our aim is to support everyone affected by cancer, and with supporters like the staff and tenants at Llys Cynffig we will achieve our goal."

Gaynor Powell, from Llys Cynffig explained: "Our complex is quite small, with just 30 flats; the majority of which are single, retired people on pensions – so it takes a lot of effort to raise this



amount of money, which everyone donates so freely.

"We select a different charity each year and 2014 was our most successful year to date. I personally feel very proud to be a part of this small community who, no matter how hard things are for themselves, always think of others less fortunate".

# CHOOSE FAIRTRADE PRODUCTS

**MEMBERS of the Bridgend Fairtrade Partnership are urging the county to choose "products that change lives" between February 23 and March 8.**

Organising caffeine-fuelled events from coffee mornings to afternoon teas, school competitions, taste-ins, the Partnership are celebrating Bridgend borough's status as a Fairtrade county and highlighting the reasons why, whilst encouraging shoppers to switch.

"We want people to be aware of the real benefits that Fairtrade offers its producers", commented Bridgend Fairtrade Partnership chairperson, Margaret Minihinnick. "Not only do they gain a fair and regular price for their product, but the Fairtrade Premium also helps create co-operatives that invest in what they know is best for their communities, whether that be business development, creating access to safe running water or funding educational programmes."

Sustainable Wales will be hosting a pop-up retro-themed Coffee Bar in the Green Room (above SUSSD, behind the Bandstand) between 11am and 4pm every day over the fortnight, as part of its own café culture celebration.

Freshly made 70s-style cakes and snacks using fairly traded

products and ethically-produced refreshments will be on sale.

SUSSED plans to support those local schools requesting a stall of fairtrade goodies, show the brand new Fairtrade Film. It will offer fairtrade samples and tasters and expect to run a fundraising raffle for customers.

Schools are joining in the poetry, writing and poster competitions. Bridgend United Church has also organised an awareness-raising Coffee Morning on February 28.

Following the huge success of last year's event, Trinity Church, Porthcawl, will be joining in the Fairtrade fun with a 'Vintage Tea' event on March 7 from 2pm to 4pm. Twenties-style waitresses will be serving Fairtrade tea and cake to the sounds of the 'Scott McNicholas Experience' for just £2 per person.

"The theme for this year's Fairtrade Fortnight is 'The Power of You', and the Bridgend Partnership are hoping to raise awareness of the real difference swapping to Fairtrade goods can make to farmers' livelihoods.

"Whether it's changing everyday commodities like tea, coffee, sugar, cocoa, chocolate or bananas or investing in ethical clothing, every purchase matters, the power is in your purse," added Mrs Minihinnick.

# Porthcawl U3A explores canals of Venezia...

**VENICE, once described in the New York Times as 'undoubtedly the most beautiful city built by man', was also one of the richest cities in the world and now has World Heritage Site status.**

It attracts 20 million visitors a year and Porthcawl U3A members experienced a memorable visit, with the help of guest speaker and U3A member Geoff Henderson.

His detailed talk to around 100 members at the Hi Tide was complemented by a library of colourful pictures showing iconic features such as the Grand Canal, Rialto Bridge, Doge's Palace, St Mark's Square and Basilica.

He also told the little known story of the enormous Campanile or Bell Tower which at 320 feet high is a touch higher than Big Ben; it collapsed in 1902 and amazingly killed only the caretaker's cat.

Today's new campanile was inaugurated on April 25, 1912, exactly 1,000 years after the foundations of the

original watch tower were said to have been laid.

The \$10 billion MOSE project (Modulo Sperimentale Elettromeccanico) is a complex lagoon entrance barrier with 78 enormous hollow seabed pontoons, which when high tides are predicted will surface to

protect the city from the sea.

*It should become operational in 2016 and I am happy to report that no U3A members got wet on their Venetian tour. I invite anyone interested in such U3A activities to contact me on 01656 783491!*

**GARY VICTOR**

# MP SAYS: "I want to tell you a story..."

**PARENTS and children filled the school hall at Bryntirion Infants last Friday morning to listen to Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon tell the story of The Scarecrow's Wedding, written by Julia Donaldson.**

She also encouraged the children to take part as characters from the book in a short play.

The MP reported: "It is always a fun way to start the day with children. After my reading of The Scarecrow's Wedding, we all left the main hall and trooped into the staff

room to quickly rehearse our parts and find some props for the children; straw hats, flowers, buckets and bells.

"We returned to act out our parts, to great admiration from the teachers and parents after our quick 10-minute rehearsal.

"It was also an activity morning at the school for the parents and children who set about creating Chinese dragons, lanterns and fans to celebrate Chinese New Year on February 19.

"With coffee and biscuits, the school was alive with chatter and laughter, a good way to end the term."

# Climate change talk

**THE Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon has invited Joan Walley MP, chair of the all-party parliamentary group on climate change and chair of environmental audit committee, to give a talk and a Q&A session in Bridgend.**

"This is an opportunity to discuss issues such as climate change, sustainable transport and alternative

energy. Also the work of the environmental audit committee, which looks at the policies of all government departments and how they contribute to environmental protection," said Mrs Moon.

It will be taking place on: February 26 at Carnegie House, Wyndham Street, Bridgend from 7pm to 9pm. Contact moonm@parliament.uk; entry is free but donations requested for Bridgend Foodbank.

# AM hits out at treatment delays

**A REGIONAL Conservative AM hit out at delays in treatment for more than 4,300 patients, saying it was "unacceptable" that they had been waiting more than 36 weeks for the start of treatment, after being referred by their GP.**

Suzy Davies stated: "Under Welsh Government targets, nobody is supposed to wait that long. Having to wait nine months to begin treatment for many debilitating and painful conditions is wearing and depressing for anyone."

"I have asked Paul Roberts, chief executive of the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health board which covers Bridgend and part of the Vale, to give an analysis of which departments and specialities are worst affected by delays and then to remedy that by immediate action."

The regional AM for south Wales West went on: "ABMu is the second worst board in Wales for having such long delays and it's not good enough. There are a further 7,538 people – or almost a 10th of the total – waiting 26 to 36 weeks when 95 per cent of patients should be treated within 26 weeks."



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# RECORD DONATIONS AT PORTHCAWL'S BUCKANEERS' PRESENTATION EVENING

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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Telephone 07791 228684  
[www.ffotoimage.co.uk](http://www.ffotoimage.co.uk)

**PORTHCAWL** Buckaneers, the organisers of Porthcawl Carnival and Christmas Morning Swim held their presentation evening on February 13, where a record amount of £22,000 was donated to 25 charities and organisations.

The Swim's two main beneficiaries, Sandville Self Help Group and Ty Hafan, each received just over £4,000, presented to them by Porthcawl Mayor, Coun Sean Aspy.

Buckaneers Kerry Marlow and Jeff Tombs presented cheques to Porthcawl Sea Cadets, the Porthcawl Mayor's Charity Fund, Porthcawl Parkinson's Support Group, Porthcawl Community Orchestra, Trinity Care Club, Porthcawl Kidney Research, Porthcawl Rock Club, Porthcawl Y Centre, St John Ambulance, Bridgend Talking Books, Porthcawl Fire Service, Ty Elis Counselling, Porthcawl RNLI, Kenfig Hill RFC – Junior Section, The Wallich Homeless Charity, Heol y Goedwig Allotment Society, Porthcawl RFC – Junior Section, Samaritans, Porthcawl and Pyle Pumas Amateur Boxing Club, Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society, Porthcawl Town Athletic FC, Porthcawl Coastguard Unit and Porthcawl Stroke Club.

The Buckaneers' Dave King MBE said: "There was tremendous goodwill demonstrated among our guests. They each commit many hours for the benefit of our community and we were delighted to give them some financial help."

Dave went on to thank Porthcawl Ukulele Band for providing excellent entertainment following the presentation. (See more photographs on page 9)



Jeff Tombs with  
Parkinson Support  
Group members.



The St John  
Ambulance received  
a donation.



The Porthcawl  
Ukelele Band  
provided the  
entertainment.



Matt Bowden (left)  
from Porthcawl  
Town Athletic AFC.



Jeff Tombs with  
Phil Missen of  
Porthcawl RNLI.



Raul Arrieta  
from Porthcawl  
Rock Club.



There was an award for 'unsung  
heroes' who work behind the scenes,  
presented by Lindsay Morgan (left).



Mary Emmet-Lewis and Jill Sweet from the  
Mayor's charity fund receive their cheque.



Jean Schofield and  
Angela Townsend from  
Porthcawl Kidney Research,  
with Jeff Tombs.



Coun Sean Aspy  
with Gwyneth  
Poacher of  
the Sandville.



Ian Cole (centre) from  
Porthcawl Coastguard,  
with Jeff Tombs and  
Kerry Marlow.



Representatives of  
Porthcawl Stroke  
Club with their  
cheque.



# LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS SHOW OFF THEIR WARES AT PENCOED MARKET

Photos by **MANDY THOMAS**  
(Available for purchase,  
telephone 07541 982794)  
www.mandythomasphotography.com



Ogmore MP Huw Irranca-Davies opened the craft fair.



*THE Pencoed Miners' Welfare Hall was busy last Saturday (February 14) when Pretty Bows hosted a free local crafts and small business market.*

*It is hoped to be the first of many, and gave a wide range of crafters and small businesses the chance to show off their goods – and there were plenty of members of the public, browsing around the stalls to see what was on offer..*

*There were refreshments, demonstrations and activities, free gifts for the kids, and two special guests, the Mayor of Pencoed, Coun John Butcher and Huw Irranca-Davies, MP for Ogmore, went along to open the event!*

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*Rotary's Valentine dinner*

THE Rotary Club of Bridgend Valentine's dinner was held at the Bridgend College Seasons Restaurant on Thursday, February 12.

Many thanks should go to restaurant manager Anthony C Trumper, head chef Neil Hughes, and all the students who prepared the food and the waiting staff who courteously provided an excellent service.

Rotarian President for 2014-15, Sue Cassidy, thanked college staff for this special evening, and Rotary members for the continued support of the student career-developing event.

RH







# RECORD DONATIONS AT PORTHCAWL'S BUCKANEERS' PRESENTATION EVENING

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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Telephone 07791 228684  
[www.ffotoimage.co.uk](http://www.ffotoimage.co.uk)

(Continued from page 6).



Saulat Abassi (right) received a cheque on behalf of the Heol y Goedwig Allotment Society.



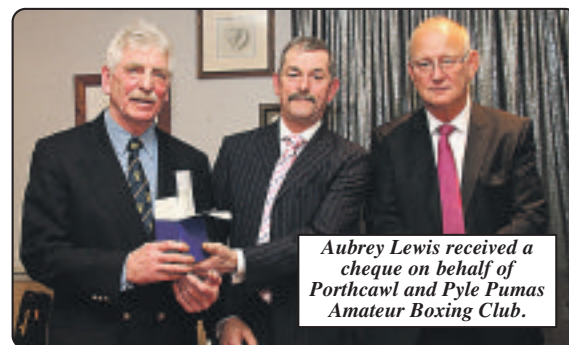
Ceri and Paul Joseph represented Porthcawl Museum.



Ian Stroud was master of ceremonies for the evening.



The Porthcawl Ukelele band played at the presentation evening.



Aubrey Lewis received a cheque on behalf of Porthcawl and Pyle Pumas Amateur Boxing Club.



Swim veteran Chris Hughes received a framed photo for his 50th swim.



Jeff Tombs and Kerry Marlow with representatives of Porthcawl Sea Cadets



Rebecca Chick of Ty Hafan receives a cheque from Coun Sean Aspey.



ABOVE: At the Christmas swim, Mike and Norah Clarke dress each year as Father and Mother Christmas. Gareth Owens (right) presented them with a framed photograph.



Kerry Marlow with Jack Bridger of Porthcawl Community Orchestra.



Jackie Graham and colleagues collected a cheque on behalf of Trinity Care Club.

## Phoenix's Mel picks up first Welsh cap!

by PHILIP IRWIN

MELISSA CLAY from Llantwit Major is the area's latest rugby international – and she has a 100 per cent record after the Welsh women's rugby team started the season with a win over England, followed by a second victory last weekend in Scotland.

Her sister, Steph Young, told The GEM that all her family were proud of her, and that they were thrilled that her dedication to the sport had taken her this far.

Although she was born in Plymouth, 25-year-old Mel, as family and friends call her, has lived in Llantwit Major since she was six, and went to Llantwit Comprehensive School, where she began her love affair with rugby.

Steph said: "As a teen she had a taster of rugby training with the Vale girls' team in Barry. Mel had a brief encounter with Llantwit Major RFC's ladies team but unfortunately it wasn't long until the team disbanded.

"Mel then got herself a weekend job so she didn't play for a few years but got talked into giving it another go by a friend Lisa Jordan (a previous Llantwit Major Player) at Barry Ravens, then Barry Sea View".

Mel was asked by other teams to play for them when she didn't have fixtures, taking every opportunity offered to play with stronger teams to continue to improve her game. She captained the side Sea View in their most successful seasons until eventually moving to Pencoeed Phoenix, where her confidence in her ability grew.

She is full of praise for the Phoenix set up, and says the "fantastic support" she had from the Phoenix players and coaches helped her gain more confidence and develop her game.

She caught the eye of the Wales manager Ben Rose at an open training session for the Ospreys, and he asked her to attend the WRU's Talent ID Day last September. Mel soon had a phone



Melissa Clay (left) celebrating Wales' win over England with Robyn Wilkins. (Photograph by Julie Hancock).

call and was asked to train with the Welsh squad.

She was even drafted into the Wales' Sevens training squad – a format she has never played! She was selected to go to France with the Sevens and also made the cut to compete in their main focus competition, the Dubai Sevens, where they won the Plate final.

By now, Mel had also made the squad for the Ospreys. Unfortunately, she picked up an injury when she was in Dubai and only played in the last game for the Ospreys against Dragons but had a superb game, even scoring a cheeky try.

Mel's biggest achievement came when she got the news that she has made the Six Nations squad. She has been picked as a flanker, a completely new position for her as she has previously played in the backs.

Her hard work and dedication to improve, saw her on the bench for the Six Nations opener against England, where she won her first cap coming on as a replacement in the second half, and was part of the team that beat the England ladies for only the second time in the team's history.

Against Scotland, she also came on as a substitute.

Sister Steph said: "Her family and friends are so proud. Her dedication to rugby has been unflinching for years and it has now paid off with the honour of playing for her country".



## Bethlehem gala concert proves an extra special charity occasion

**WHEN every ticket is sold, it usually leads to something special and Saturday's charity concert at Bethlehem Church, Cefn Cribwr was exactly that.**

Bridgend Male Choir had invited the Rhondda's Parc & Dare Brass Band to share the concert and it turned out to be an inspired choice.

The choir started with a Welsh selection, which included a rousing performance of John Guard's 'Men of Harlech' and moved into an opera and European selection, which included Verdi's 'Bandit's Chorus' and Kurt Lissman's 'Aus De Traube'.

Under musical director, Andrew Jones, the band entertained with Andrea Lewis's flugel horn solo from 'Over the Rainbow' and the uplifting Shostakovich March from 'Suite for Variety Orchestra No 1'. The band completed three more items, and the first half drew to a close with the choir and band coming together to perform 'Llanfair'.

Comper Gareth Davies explained the connection between choir and band, with the choir's musical director, Rhiannon Williams-Hale and chorister husband Terry also being members of the band.

The choir continued with mixed items

including 'Bui Doi' from *Miss Saigon*, featuring tenor soloist, Paul Carter.

Parc & Dare also entertained with aplomb. Gareth Maidment's euphonium solo by Welsh composer, Karl Jenkins, 'Benedictus' from *The Armed Man* was worth the entrance money alone, as was Jerry Herman's popular 'Hello Dolly', when the musicians sang along, as well as playing one verse.

The Armstrong & Snodlaigh 'Gwerzy' arranged by Brendan Breslin, was fantastic, building to a musical crescendo, followed by another treat.

Many had never seen the very large and complex marimba (a xylophone type instrument) which was played by teenagers, Alex Maxted and Nathaniel Alcolado in their rendition of Evelyn Glennie's 'Little Prayer'. A standing ovation followed before the band and choir closed proceedings with the ever popular 'Gwahoddiad'.

Comper, Gareth Davies, had earlier acknowledged the work of chorister, Tom James, a Cornelly resident and choir president, Paul Porter in pulling this concert together. Paul, a Prostate Cymru ambassador, expressed his delight with the evening's fundraising. Choristers wish the band every success at the Welsh Open Brass Band competition in Porthcawl next weekend.

DAVID T BURT

## London Labour pledges to hand over fracking powers to Welsh Government

**THE Welsh Government's moratorium on fracking could only last a few months – were Labour to win the May general election.**

In a statement issued Monday (February 16) Labour said that – if elected – it will devolve powers to Wales that will enable the Welsh Government to make any decisions on fracking.

The statement said: "Licencing powers relating to the extraction and exploitation of onshore shale gas will be devolved following a Labour victory in May, giving the people of Wales full power over fracking."

"In the meantime, Planning Minister Carl Sargeant will put an immediate moratorium on fracking in Wales."

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "I welcome Labour's fracking pledge; the devolution of licensing powers to Wales will give us more

by PHILIP IRWIN

control on this important issue and a moratorium addresses the continuing uncertainties surrounding the controversial fracking process."

The Conservative Leader and regional AM, Andrew RT Davies, welcomed the decision to impose a moratorium on fracking.

However, he said that the move should be coupled with a community right to 'opt-in' where fracking was welcomed, but stressed the need to ensure that local residents' views were paramount in any discussions on shale gas extraction, or 'fracking'.

He noted that three sites in the Vale already have planning permission for test drilling, but these will be subject to the moratorium.

Mr Davies said: "For some time, I have been calling on the Welsh Government to bring forward robust guidance for local authorities on fracking and the decision to introduce a

moratorium is a sensible one.

"It is clear that shale gas exploitation has a contribution to make to a long-term economic plan for Wales' energy generation, but until its impact on our environment and homes is properly assessed, we need a moratorium."

"I have met with community groups opposed to fracking in the Vale on numerous occasions and clearly they will be delighted with this announcement."

"The views of the local people likely to benefit from fracking, or who will be affected by fracking, must be paramount and that's why I believe that communities should have a say, including a right to 'opt-in' where schemes are welcomed by residents."

A spokesman for Mr Davies added that the Conservative Leader favoured devolving powers relating to fracking to Wales, and that discussions with Westminster on the matter were "ongoing".



Local solicitors promote the Free Will Writing Service with Marie Curie Nurses Sue Sullivan and Mags Cawthorn and Phae Comber-Jones, Marie Curie Legacy Advisor.

## Marie Curie promotes free Will writing offer

**MARIE CURIE has joined forces with solicitor firms in the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff to offer a free Will writing scheme to people aged 55 years and over.**

Representatives from Griffiths Ings Property Lawyers, Leo Abse and Cohen Solicitors, Lucas Law Solicitors, Passmore Solicitors and Wendy Hopkins Family Law Practice visited the Marie Curie Cardiff & the Vale Hospice in Penarth earlier this month as part of a partnership to offer the Marie Curie free Will writing scheme.

The initiative, which runs until Thursday, April 30, offers people the opportunity to make or amend a basic Will, with the option to include a gift to support Marie Curie's work in the future. Gifts in Wills fund the equivalent of one in two Marie Curie nurses, supporting their work across Wales and in the Cardiff & The Vale Hospice.

Among those to have



Geoff Mortimer has decided to leave a gift for Marie Curie in his Will. His late wife, Jenny, was also a supporter of the charity.

already taken advantage of the Marie Curie free Will writing scheme is long-time supporter Geoff Mortimer of Llantwit Major.

Choosing to leave a gift to Marie Curie in his Will was an easy decision for Geoff, whose late wife Jenny was a prolific fundraiser for Marie Curie before losing her battle with cancer in 2009. Geoff has since taken over the fundraising mantle, becoming one of Wales' most dedicated volunteers.

Explaining his decision to leave a gift to Marie Curie in his Will, Geoff explained: "It's something that you can do without it affecting your finances immediately. I can leave a goodly sum to Marie Curie in my Will, but I couldn't donate that money now because my assets are tied up in my house. I can be generous and know it won't affect my family in the future. My children know about it and are fully in favour of it."

"Only last week I managed to convince one of my friends to sign

up to the free Will service, and I would encourage others to do the same."

Phae Comber-Jones, legacy advisor for Marie Curie, said: "Using our free Will writing service will ensure you can get a basic Will written by a solicitor and guarantee that your family, friends and others benefit exactly as you wish."

"Although there is, of course, no obligation to do so, leaving a gift to Marie Curie in your Will can help ensure that our nurses can continue to provide free care and support to people with a terminal illness, and their families, in Wales."

For more information about the Free Will Writing Scheme or to learn more about this special way of remembering the charity, please contact Legacy Advisor, Phae Comber-Jones. Email: phae.comber-jones@mariecurie.org.uk or telephone: 02920 426045 or 07545 422683.

For more information about Marie Curie's services please visit [www.mariecurie.org.uk](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk).

## AM's surgery

**VALE AM Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery on Saturday, February 21 at Cowbridge Town Hall, 10am – 11am. No appointments are necessary.**

For further information please contact Camilla Beaven on 02920 898469 or [Camilla.beaven@wales.gov.uk](mailto:Camilla.beaven@wales.gov.uk).

## How to 'upcycle' old and tired items of furniture

**THE St Nicholas Women's Institute February meeting in St Nicholas Church hall opened with an introduction to chalk painting techniques.**

Jan Williams had brought along two small bedside cupboards to demonstrate what could be achieved – one which she had painted earlier and the other to show how easily she had created such an attractive piece of furniture.

Jan explained that this type of paint was an ideal way to upcycle old and tired wooden items and give them a new lease of life.

Sanding or stripping was rarely necessary and the paint was suitable for use on other surfaces, too. Members were full of ideas for their own kitchen chairs, chests and cupboards.

After refreshments, president Fran Mitchell noted news in the federation letter. Agreement was reached

for an outing in June and another in August and a visit to a restaurant in Barry to celebrate the WI centenary.

Plans are also in hand for a vintage tea party in July to raise funds for charity, with members raiding old trunks and wardrobes for fashion ideas.

The meeting on March 5 will celebrate our Welsh Heritage.

W LAVE

## AM launches Daffodil Appeal

**VALE AM Jane Hutt sponsored the launch of Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal on February 11 in the Senedd in Cardiff Bay, see article on page 17.**

The Great Daffodil Appeal, Marie Curie's flagship fundraising drive, encourages people to donate to the appeal and wear an iconic daffodil during February and March.

Jane Hutt said: "It

gives me immense pride to wear my daffodil and support the charity's 2015 Great Daffodil Appeal. I hope people across Wales will donate and wear a daffodil and help Marie Curie continue to make a real difference to people living with a terminal illness in Wales."

To find out how you can get involved in the Great Daffodil Appeal visit [www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil) or call 0845 601 3107.

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## NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

# Bee patient and get ready for a challenge!

**NOT much sign of external bee activity just yet, but this is due to the low temperatures we are experiencing.**

Spring is beginning to reveal itself and some blossoms are available to the bees. The days are decidedly longer now and given warmer days (at least 10°C) the colonies will respond and a new season will be under way.

There have been days when external bee activity was observed, but this was the bees taking cleansing flights—i.e. voiding their bowels; the bees can retain their body waste for a considerable time and keeping the hive clean is something they strive to do.

No doubt some colonies will not have made it through the winter. Varroa mites could well be one cause, another is the internal parasite Nosema, and this will weaken a colony and bring about its demise.

Starvation is yet another element that can bring a colony down.

Preparing a colony of bees for the winter requires input from the beekeeper. Sufficient stores are a must and you

have to provide supplementary food, if on one of your inspections your experience tells you that the colony is not sufficient to meet the winter ahead.

The summer of 2014 was a good one for all insects. Fonmon bees gathered in plenty of nectar and pollen, so very little feeding has had to

be done. Bees settling down for the winter will not have the busy life their sisters had, who being active every day were lucky to live for about six weeks.

Our winter bees, by contrast, should survive for five months or more.

So, the beekeeper has done her/his best to prepare the colonies – will we get a good

spring? Will we get a good summer? Will all the colonies have survived? As ever, we have to be optimistic and be patient. Plenty of challenges await any newcomer to the craft of beekeeping, but it is a worthwhile activity and the bees need all the help we can give them.

**HAROLD WILLIAMS.**

## Is anyone looking to share a life of Riley?

**STAFF at Dogs Trust Bridgend were hoping that Valentine's Day would bring a lifelong female companion for 11-year-old Riley, who is on the hunt for a family home which he can share with a gentle female dog.**

Riley the Jack Russell Terrier is quite the ladies' man and has been pulling on the heartstrings of a number of female canines at the rehoming centre, but has so far failed to meet that perfect person to take him home.

He's not a fan of male dogs and is always kennelled with female



companion who can keep him on his toes and become a lifelong partner.

"Riley is a super sweet boy, who really needs a kind female dog he can settle into family life with. He needs a loving family who will understand his needs and support his blossoming friendship."

Call our Bridgend Rehoming Centre on 0300 303 0292. We are open every day between 12pm-4pm, apart from Wednesdays, or visit the centre at Court Colman, Pen-Y-Fai, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF31 4NG. Linda Feagan, Dogs Trust Bridgend Supporter Relations Officer.

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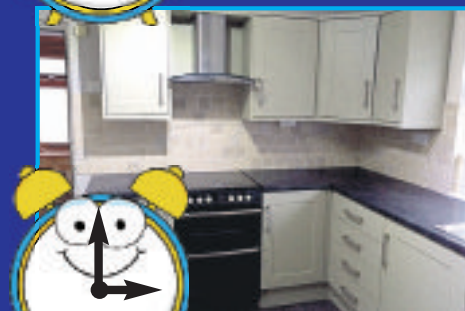
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# Out and About with The GEM

## FUNDRAISER'S CONCERT FOR DIABETES CHARITY

**MICHAEL JACKSON** impersonator Navi will lead entertainment at the Memo Arts Centre, Barry on Sunday, March 22, supported by other special guest tributes to Bruno Mars and Olly Murs – to help raise funds for health charity Diabetes UK Cymru.

Ely's Leanne Emmerson (30) a keen fundraiser for the charity, hopes it will be a fun way to help support the 182,000 people living with diabetes in Wales.

She explained: "I've been living with Type 1 diabetes since I was 22 years old and I know what a huge impact it can have on your life. I'm always trying to think up new ideas to help raise funds to help other people living with diabetes across Wales. I'm a huge Michael Jackson fan so this concert seemed like a great idea."

Doors open at 5.30pm; tickets £15, can be purchased on 01446 738622, or online [www.ents24.com](http://www.ents24.com). VIP tickets UK Cymru is also offering VIP tickets for £20. Call 029 2066 8276 or email [wales@diabetes.org.uk](mailto:wales@diabetes.org.uk).

## What's on and where in and around your area...

### Labour surgery

**THE Labour Vale and Town councillors for Buttrills and Court wards, Bronwen Brooks, Jeff Evans, Pamela Drake and Stuart Egan** will hold their regular advice surgery on Saturday, February 21 from 10am to 11am in the small community room at Barry Library, Kings Square. No appointment necessary.

### Beach clean

**THIS Sunday, February 22, Friends of Barry Beaches** will hold a beach clean at Whitmore Bay beach, on Barry Island from 3pm adjacent to Marco's Cafe. All litter picking equipment will be supplied.

### Free advice

**AGE CONNECT Cardiff and Vale** is holding a free tax advice session at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Monday, February 23 (9.30am-11.30am). No appointment is needed.

Contact 01446 732385. Home visits can be arranged.

### Step back in time

**G L A M O R G A N War-time Heritage Centre** at Barry Island Station will be open on February 25 from 2pm - 4pm.

Schools are being invited to arrange for year-6 children to visit the museum as 'evacuees' with their own gas masks and boxes for a trip back to the 1940s.

On February 26 at 7.30pm there will be three 20-minute Great War talks by Rosemary Chaloner, Alun Salisbury (both of Cardiff) and Alun Robertson (Barry) with the opportunity to ask questions.

Rosemary will explore how wars affect women and how World War 1 changed the structure of society where women were no longer confined to the home.

**Dementia talk DINAS POWYS** Voluntary Concern, in association with the Alzheimer's Society, is holding a dementia awareness evening in Lee Hall, Britway Road on Thursday, February 26 between 6pm and 8pm.

This session is open to all who wish to learn more about dementia and is free of charge. Dementia describes a set

of symptoms that may include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language.

Karen Collins from Alzheimer's Society will be speaking on this important topic.

### Valeways walks

**ON Wednesday, February 25 at 10.30am, it is the Coffee Shop Strollers!** Meet at Romilly Café, Cold Knap, Barry.

**ON Thursday, February 26 at 10.30am,** meet at Llantwit Major Railway Station car park for a walk around Llantwit lanes.

### Artist's talk

**ON, February 26, Cowbridge Art Society** welcomes prizewinning artist John Hoare, who will give a demonstration of architectural painting in watercolour.

He has been described as one of the most exciting watercolourists

in Britain today, has won various painting prizes, and published numerous DVDs on watercolour.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm-9pm) and visitors and new members are welcome.

For details of activities, see [www.cowbridgeartsociety.ycom](http://www.cowbridgeartsociety.ycom).

### Planting a seed

**'THE Life and Work of a Plant Health and Seed Inspector In Wales',** an illustrated talk by Kevin Izzard to the Llantwit Major Horticultural Society, will take place in Llantwit Hall on, February 25, at 7.30pm.

He is the higher phytophthora project officer at the Food and Environment Research Agency based in Swansea, and has lectured in horticulture at Pencoed College.

He will be happy to give advice on any garden problems.

All are welcome. The hall is situated on the Boverton Road behind the library at the back of the rugby club car park. Admission is free.

### Lent Lunches

**A NEW round of Lent lunches** is to be held in All Saints' Church, Park Road, Barry on four Thursdays, February 26, March 5, March 12, March 19, inclusive from 12pm to 1.30pm. They will

include, as usual, a choice of soups, crusty bread and a selection of cheeses, tea or coffee and a raffle ticket. Admission is £5.

### Otago Class

**AGE CONNECT Cardiff and Vale Ageing Well Project** in Vale Of Glamorgan is starting an Otago class at The Old Hall, Cowbridge, on Mondays (2pm-3pm). Further information is available on 01446/732385.

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### Monday 5.30pm

Gilgal Church Hall, Woodland Avenue, Porthcawl CF36 5HU  
Beverley 07912 172674

### Mondays 5.30pm and 7.30pm

Tabernacle Church Kings Square, Barry Lorraine 01446 407002

### Monday 5.30 & 7.30pm

Christchurch Methodist Church, Omore Vale Steph 07584 563896

### Mondays 5.30pm and 7.30pm

Elfed Avenue United Church, Elfed Avenue, Penarth Nia 07793 885581

### Tuesdays 9.30am

Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major Helen 01446 750738/07968355119

### Tuesdays 5.30pm and 7.30pm

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Lesser Hall, Town Hall Square, Cowbridge CF71 7AQ Irene 01656 861648

### Tuesdays 5.30pm

Holy Trinity Presbyterian, Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry Joanne 01446 404897

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The Welfare Hall, Hope Avenue, Next To The Old Cinema, Aberkenfig, CF32 9PR Lorraine 01656 734710

### Tuesdays 6.30pm

The Old School, South Road, Sulby CF64 5TG Nicola - 01446 740394

### Tuesdays 7.30pm

St Marys Catholic Church Hall, Ewenny Road, Bridgend Graham 07475 865005

### Wednesdays 6.00pm

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### Wednesdays 4.45pm and 6.45pm

St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-Y-Castell, Barry Annamarie 01446 736534

### Wednesday 5.30 & 7.30 pm

Bridgend Deaf Club,

Coychurch Road, Bridgend Helen - 01656 720963

### Wednesday 9.30am

Trinity Church, John Street, Porthcawl CF36 3BD. Gaynor 01656 788763

### Thursdays 9.30am

Nolton Church Hall Merthyr Mawr Road Bridgend Donna 01656 669739 07790797008

### Thursdays 9.30am

Cowbridge Rugby Club The Broad Shoard Rob - 07708 941279

### Thursdays 10.15am

St Helen's Church Hall, Wyndham Street, Barry CF63 4EL Nicola - 01446 740394

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### Saturdays 9.30am

Westward Community Centre, Llangewydd Road, Cefn Glas Gail 07551 576592

### Saturday 9.30am and 11.30am

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# National Assembly beats Commons and Lords in rugby clash

**THE National Assembly's rugby team swept aside the House of Commons and Lords at Cardiff Arms Park in a resounding 33-12 victory, in what was dubbed the 'real' Wales-England showdown.**

The politicians returned to the Senedd and Westminster battered and bruised – but boosted by the thousands raised for Bowel Cancer UK from their Parliamentary clash.

It was the curtain-raiser to the Six Nations clash between Wales and England. The event marked the ninth annual fixture to raise money for Bowel Cancer UK.

And it was the hosts who emerged

triumphant, with the National Assembly XV outplaying their Commons and Lords counterparts to claim a 33-12 win, their fourth in a row.

After leading 19-0 at half time at Cardiff Arms Park, the hosts had to withstand a comeback from the Westminster side before they eased away in the fourth quarter.

Andrew RT Davies, the Conservative leader of the opposition in the Assembly, said he was delighted with the performance of his side – particularly their fifth try, a team effort which went straight through the London visitors' defensive line.

Mr Davies was joined in the Assembly side by Plaid Cymru's Ynys Môn AM Rhun Iirorwerth, who lined up –

appropriately – on the left wing.

Assembly rugby chairman, Andrew RT Davies AM, said:

"Over the years the team has raised more than £10,000 for Bowel Cancer UK and I am proud to be involved."

"The Assembly team was set up in 2006 by Glyn Davies, who was an AM at the time."

"Glyn overcame bowel cancer and wanted to raise awareness of the disease and personally demonstrate how survivors could go on to lead a full and active life after being so ill. I think that's a message we can all support."

"On behalf of Assembly rugby I would also like to thank Cardiff Blues for making the stadium available to us."

Deborah Alsina, chief executive of Bowel Cancer UK commended the teams and the game organisers on their work saying,

"We are incredibly grateful to the National Assembly Rugby team for their support over the years, it means a lot to us. Over 41,500 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer every year and it remains the UK's second biggest cancer killer."

## BOOK WORMS WANTED!

**VOLUNTEERS** are being sought to work in the Oxfam Shop in Penarth, which has recently had an influx of book donations.

Jayne Luxton, shop manager, said: "It's brilliant that we have had so many books donated

recently. Now we urgently need new volunteers to help us.

"They will need to be able to volunteer for at least a half day a week, and be willing to be trained by our current book volunteer team".

Contact Jayne Luxton on 029 2070 6358 for further information.

## Silent auction

**ST Curig's Church, Porthkerry, is organising another fundraising evening to cover the cost of repairing its unique organ – a silent auction at Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose, on Friday, February 27, from 7pm. Entry (£3) includes a glass of wine.**



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## Free Parentalk course at church

**A FREE six week parenting course begins at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, on February 24 for parents of children up to early teenage years.**

Parentalk is split into six sessions, a mixture of video content and group discussion from 9.15am-11.15am and a free creche will be provided.

For details, contact Leonie Hain on 01446 775048.



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# Cardiff and Vale college provides unrivalled facilities

**STUDENTS** studying at Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) from September will be among the first to benefit from a £45m investment into sector-leading education and training facilities for the region.

In the heart of the city centre, just a five-minute walk from Cardiff Central Station, the college's brand new city centre campus will become home to unrivalled facilities including a science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) centre; a performance theatre; recording studios; Apple design studios; commercial salon and spa; employment and progression centre; fine dining training restaurant and world-class teaching and learning space.

One of the largest colleges in the country, CAVC has 20,000 people studying across sites in Cardiff and the Vale every year.

A CAVC spokesperson said: "The success of those students has continued to go from strength to strength with 86 per cent of learners achieving their main qualification in 2014 – one of the best records in the sector."

Having chosen from the range of 29 different AS and A-Level subjects on offer – from law and graphic design to business studies and chemistry – Cameron Patterson is just one of the 750 students from last year who went on to study at universities across the UK.

"When I moved back from China I had a few options in terms of where to study," said the former A-Level student.

"After speaking with my family and hearing about the excellent quality of teaching and friendly atmosphere, as well as taking a look at the college website, I knew Cardiff and Vale College was the place for me.

"My main goal was to get into university and with the help of tutors, as well as the large range of resources available, it's made the process a straightforward one. I now have a place to study a four-year MSc course in Natural Sciences at Lancaster University, one of the top 10 universities in the UK."

For Sofia Stewart, opting for one of the large range of career-focused courses proved to be the right path for her; helping to not only develop her skills but to also provide her with the right qualifications and experience to progress straight into a career.

"It all started with my diploma in engineering and design which I also studied at Cardiff and Vale College," said the BSc Aircraft Engineering student.

"When I spoke to someone about work experience, they strongly recommended the college's IATA facility. I work on real aircraft as part of the course!

"I've met really influential people in my time here. They've shown me how important and rewarding this career can be."

*Book your place for September and follow in the footsteps of the 78 per cent of last year's learners who progressed on to further study, university or employment within just two months of completing their studies – you could be next!*

## Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal launched at the Senedd

**MARIE CURIE'S** annual Great Daffodil Appeal is officially under way in Wales after a launch event at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay last week.

The Great Daffodil Appeal is Marie Curie's flagship fundraising campaign, and this year's appeal was launched by Deputy Health Minister, Vaughan Gething AM, and Marie Curie's chief executive Dr Jane Collins.

Each year the appeal encourages people to donate and wear the charity's iconic daffodil throughout February and March. Money raised through the Great Daffodil Appeal helps fund the charity's work supporting people living with a terminal illness, and their families, throughout Wales as well as in the Cardiff and The Vale Hospice in Penarth.

The event provided a stage to showcase some of the charity's work in Wales, including the innovative 'South Wales Helper Service'.

The initiative sees volunteers paired with people affected by terminal illness, offering



Deputy Health Minister Vaughan Gething AM pictured with Marie Curie Senior nurses Marilyn Parfitt, Alana Lavin and Maura Williams.

them support and companionship.

Those in attendance heard from Jo Parry, who runs the South Wales Helper Service, as well as Jenny Latham, who is currently receiving support from a helper volunteer.

The event also saw some of Wales' top fundraising volunteers honoured for their efforts supporting the charity. The 'Outstanding Contribution to

Fundraising in Wales' award was presented to the CarTen100 group, who raised more than £82,000 for Marie Curie through their annual 100-mile Cardiff to Tenby charity cycle ride.

Meanwhile, Arlene Smith was named as Fundraiser of the Year (west Wales), Barbara Norbury won the Fundraiser of the Year (north Wales) title and Fundraiser of the Year (south Wales) was accepted by Wyndham

Perkins on behalf of the Perkins family.

Simon Jones, head of policy and public affairs, Wales for Marie Curie, said: "We are pleased to have the support of our Assembly Members as we launch this year's Great Daffodil Appeal – an appeal that raises vital funds to support our work in homes across Wales, as well as the Cardiff and The Vale Hospice in Penarth.

"Every year the

people of Wales never cease to amaze us with their generosity and support for our Great Daffodil Appeal, and I'm sure this year will be no different as people recognise the importance of the work we carry out.

"On behalf of Marie Curie, I would like to thank all those who continue to donate and enable us to keep supporting people affected by terminal illness across Wales."



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## Top chefs help to raise 125k for Ty Hafan on a tasty gourmet night!



**A SMALL army of star chefs from in and around Wales have successfully raised over £125,000 for Ty Hafan Children's Hospice in the 'Chefs' Night Out' dinner at Cardiff's Parc Thistle Hotel.**

The event included an auction of chef's services, which raised £95,000, with 2014 Masterchef Champion Ping Coombes receiving the highest bid of £15,000, to create a dinner party at the bidder's home.

The 14-strong culinary cast of chefs volunteering their time and skills included top chefs Hywel Jones, James Sommerin, Stephen Terry and Will Holland.

Hosted and supported by The Parc Thistle Hotel for the second time, the event, which is organised by David Loosemore and Huw Edwards, has now raised over £425,000 for Ty Hafan since its first staging in 2010.

David Loosemore, whose eight-year-old daughter, Bella, also benefits from the charity's services, said: "The night went incredibly smoothly and that is thanks to our dedicated team and the skill and camaraderie of our chefs."

"We have raised a vast amount of money for this wonderful cause and Huw and I can't thank our team enough. Special mention must also go to our guest of honour, Katie Palmer, who regularly attends Ty Hafan.

Her words touched the room and I'm sure contributed to bidders digging that little bit deeper."

Huw Edwards said: "We would like to offer a huge thank you to all the amazing chefs, the suppliers, the hotel and, of course, all of the guests who have helped to raise an incredible amount for Ty Hafan."

Ben Underwood, general manager of The Parc Thistle Hotel said: "We are absolutely thrilled to have supported Chefs' Night Out and are so chuffed with the amount raised. It is particularly fitting for us, as Ty Hafan is our official charity this year, we couldn't be happier with this success."

Teenager Katie Palmer and her mum, Lisa, from Tonyrefail were two other very special guests. Katie, 17, was referred to Ty Hafan when she was 13 and describes the children's hospice as: "A wonderful, loving place and every member of staff is so truly welcoming and comforting."

Katie suffers from a life-threatening heart condition called hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and has been in and out of hospital hundreds of times since she was a baby.

She enjoyed a makeover before the event thanks to John Lewis and the Vanilla Rooms in Cardiff and Stardust Boutique in Swansea.

Jeremy Jackson, Ty Hafan's director of fundraising and marketing, said: "Chefs' Night Out is an innovative event providing guests with an

exclusive, world-class gourmet experience, combined with an opportunity to support the vital work of Ty Hafan.

"The success of the event is dependent on the generosity of top chefs, many of whom possess Michelin Stars; Welsh businesses and, of course, the great Welsh public. Inspired by Ty Hafan's care for his daughter Bella, David and his close friend Huw have created an exceptional fundraising event that has already raised in excess of £425,000 for Ty Hafan.

"This is a phenomenal contribution and Chefs' Night Out is making a significant difference to the care we can provide. We are incredibly grateful for their unstinting commitment to, and support for, Ty Hafan."

**The Chefs' Night Out 2015 line-up was:** James Sommerin – Restaurant James Sommerin; Stephen Terry – The Hardwick; Roger Jones – The Harrow at Little Bedwyn; Duncan Barham – The Grove; Will Holland – Coast; Hywel Jones – Lucknam Park Hotel and Spa; Richard Davies – Manor House Hotel; Will Guthrie – Buckland Manor; Bryan Webb – Tyddyn Llan; Sian Rees – Sosban; Mark Jordan – Ocean Restaurant at the Atlantic Hotel and Mark Jordan at the Beach; David Kelman – Ellenborough Park; and Ping Coombes – special guest chef and Masterchef Champion 2014; Matt Smith – Llys Meddyg (Newport) Pembrokeshire.

### ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

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The next level Acenta, available in a 1.2 dig-T petrol engine, 1.6 automatic petrol engine or the 1.5 diesel engine, comes with sporty 17" alloy wheels, front fog lights, rear privacy glass and a leather steering wheel and gear stick.

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The Acenta Premium, which is available in a 1.2 dig-T petrol engine, 1.6 automatic petrol engine or the 1.5 diesel engine, as well as the 1.6 turbo engine in four wheel drive, automatic or manual, offers sports seats with premium seat fabric, new NissanConnect with 5.8" touch screen, colour reversing camera and a Nissan Design Studio Personalised Interior Pack in a choice of black, red, white or yellow applied to centre console, gear stick, air vent rings, door trim, seat insets and stitching on meter hood, steering wheel, gear stick and seats.

The top-of-the-range Tekna, available in a 1.2 dig-T petrol engine, 1.6 automatic petrol engine or the 1.5 diesel engine as well as the 1.6 turbo engine in four wheel drive, automatic or manual, offers 17" urban alloy wheels,

premium leather seats, heated front seats as well as safety shield technology, I-Key with Stop/Start push button and automatic lights and wipers.

All models of the Juke are available in a variety of colour options too so you can choose something to suit your personal tastes.

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SPECIAL FEATURE

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# Much-anticipated adaptation is Fifty Shades of boredom!

**IT'S no surprise when a best-selling book finds its way onto cinema screens, but when a best-selling book becomes a phenomenon, then the chances of that book becoming a film are even higher.**

It's happened to *Harry Potter*, it's happened to *Twilight*, it's happened to *The Hunger Games*, and now (with a different audience in mind) it has happened to *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

EL James' steamy series has sold over 100 millions books worldwide, with the arrival of the film eagerly awaited by its readers.

It tells the story of Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson), a literature student who interviews wealthy Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan). When they spark, they embark upon a relationship that soon takes a turn for the interesting when Anastasia discovers Christian's penchant for being in control...

A quick note to the marketing bods; films are traditionally released on a Friday – so when the marketing for *Fifty Shades of Grey* states proudly the film opens

'on Valentine's Day' this is a blatant mistrust.

Perhaps the fact that the film opened on Friday the 13th is more apt, as it is a pretty abject film – painfully dull, nowhere near as racy as you have been told, and it falls short in nearly all departments.

The fact that the book's origins lay in *Twilight* fan-fiction is incredibly apparent here; missing that series' reliance on long, 'smouldering' looks? Well there's plenty to savour here in lieu of any real dialogue that pushes the story on – after all, why bother with words when a lip being bitten or a cold hard stare can do so much more?

You almost feel for the talent involved in this, as they try to make something worthy, yet fall short. It doesn't help that the man the film is built around, the ubiquitous Mr Grey, is filled out by a badly miscast Jamie Dornan.

Dornan is a decent actor, but he seems out of place and awkward at times, sometimes looking like a 15-year-old boy who has been told to take the bins out else he won't get any pocket money. He tries, but ultimately it's not enough, lacking the detached coldness that



by GARETH JAMIESON  
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the character should have in order to convince you, and instead being a controlling bore.

His co-star Dakota Johnson fares a little better; initially her character's awkwardness grates as Johnson struggles to give the simpering Anastasia any personality; but as the character comes out of her shell, so too does Johnson, and she offers a solid turn that hints at potential – her performance undone by having her do very little other than remove her clothes.

Sam Taylor-Johnson's direction is suitably artistic, if a little lacking in substance, while Kelly Marcel's script is

stuffed full of dialogue that, as Harrison Ford once said to George Lucas, "you can type... but you can't say it".

The film's story is basically a contract negotiation, which is as painfully dull as it sounds, with sub-plots teased and referenced without coming close to any sense of resolution.

Mr Grey has 'business problems' (the main problem being that no-one knows just what it is he actually does), a meeting with a figure from his past goes unseen and passed over despite being key to the plot.

The expansion of these wouldn't have cured all of the film's ills, but would have made for a more layered story.

Even the much hyped sex scenes fail to really spark, with the film lacking the highly-charged nature of, say, *9½ Weeks* and being far too stylised; there is no immediacy, no palpable passion, instead the key foundation of

the whole shebang flounders due to its sterilised and over-stylised nature.

Oddly for a film whose target audience is women, there is little equality in terms of nudity, with Johnson laid

bare (literally) for all to see while Dornan simply removes his shirt a few times; in fact the entire film's message feels curiously off-kilter – Grey may seem to be in charge but as the film progresses it's Anastasia who holds the power, thus making Grey quite a poor dominant when you think about it.

Fans of the book will no doubt lap up James' leaden prose made into live-action – and with the film having pocketed a very impressive \$235 million worldwide in its opening weekend, then expect to see the other two books from the series on the big screen sooner rather than later – but *Fifty Shades of Grey*'s woeful and dull story will earn no praise from the uninitiated.

**VERDICT** – A shockingly poor film, that has no engaging story nor dialogue, *Fifty Shades of Grey* is a film that seems intent on shocking but ends up being as sexy as a wet lettuce. Jamie Dornan is miscast, Dakota Johnson impresses, but the lingering aftertaste of the film is trashy and boring. Avoid at all costs.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Nine ½ Weeks* (1986), *Twilight* (2008).

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Dywedodd Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies, Prif Weithredwr Mudiad Meithrin: "Trwy fabwysiadu enw parth .cymru, mae'r Mudiad yn gwirredu un o'r targedau sydd wedi eu hamlinellu yn Dewiniaith (pwynt 3.9) sef gwledigaeth Mudiad Meithrin am y 10 mlynedd nesaf."

## Mudiad Meithrin switches domain name to .cymru

**MUDIAD Meithrin is pleased to announce that it has adopted .cymru as its new domain name. Mudiad Meithrin is the first early years education and childcare provider in Wales to switch its domain name to .cymru.**

Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies, Mudiad Meithrin Chief Executive said: "By switching our domain name to .cymru, the Mudiad has realized one of the targets that are outlined in Dewiniaith (point 3.9) – a document outlining the Mudiad's vision for the next 10 years."

## Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

**THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D866.**

● **£2,000:** 996597.  
● **The rollover, which now stands at £4,500 was not won this week.**  
● **£10:** 116594; 187586; 162296; 219201; 237421; 341582; 301580; 647598; 744125; 952352; 585487; 747902; 481286; 285556; 990794; 785605; 804256; 169091; 299083; 858123.  
● **£5:** 313315, 293009; 486666; 293304; 780076; 778483; 752509; 977378; 761530; 627965; 402443;

221558; 943539; 222407; 840699; 316758; 406336; 505798; 446214; 233166; 536737; 850200; 825591; 942362; 212630; 478207; 112968; 939212; 817543; 632812; 643171; 766073; 646064; 379064; 286478; 394598; 518645; 656589; 216510; 365498; 487789; 461263; 788137; 707324; 876238; 311281; 627588; 838636; 996093; 549429; 359202; 384148; 178604; 650000; 635318; 719556; 896015; 474999; 906; 1587.

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# Local Lions hand £500 cheque to the Vale Foodbank



Mike Grove (Foodbank treasurer), Susan Lloyd Selby (Foodbank), John Wordley (Lions president) and Ceri Caterina Davies (Foodbank).

AS the Vale Foodbank passes the milestone of providing free emergency food parcels to almost 10,000 local people in crisis, it was visited by John Wordley, president of the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions, who presented the charity with a cheque for £500.

Receiving the cheque on behalf of the foodbank, Susan Lloyd Selby said: "The Lions is a wonderful organisation, consisting of volunteers who raise money and do whatever they can to help their local community."

"Here in the Vale, they support a huge number of local causes, including diabetic screening, the Big Wrap and the British Legion. "As the number of people seeking help from the foodbank continues to rise, we are incredibly grateful to the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions for their support."

Speaking on behalf of the Lions, John Wordley praised the Foodbank's work and the dedication of all the volunteers involved.

He said: "The Lions support humanitarian causes across the world, from our Sight First programme which is aiming to prevent and cure blindness in the

Third World, to supporting young people from the Vale to work with disadvantaged children in Venezuela and India, but we also recognise and respond to needs on our doorstep.

"We are delighted to be able to support the Vale Foodbank and hope this donation will enable them to continue to ensure no-one need go hungry in the Vale."

For more information about the work of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions: Telephone 0845 833 6763; e-mail: secretary@lmandclions.org.uk; visit www.lmandclions.org.uk; Facebook: www.facebook.com/lmandclions; Twitter: @lmandclions.

# NOT A WELLY IN SIGHT AS GARDENERS CELEBRATE!

BARRY garden owners attended a Mayor's Fairtrade coffee morning last week – to celebrate the hard work they do each year to open their gardens for the National Gardens Scheme.

Leaving their wellies at home, Dave Bryant, (on left in picture) and Debbie Palmer, (right) enjoyed a rest from gardening with the Mayor of Barry Council, Coun Jeff Evans.

They are looking forward to opening their gardens on July 19, which promises a great day out for garden lovers!

The Glamorgan branch of the National Gardens Scheme raised over £35,000 last year, giving about £32,000 to the NGS, which supports charities such as Macmillan Nursing and Marie Curie, and £3,500 to local charities.



## THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

### Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/00068/FUL  
Proposal/Cynnig: Erection of double garage  
Location/Lleoliad: 8, Cardiff Road, Cowbridge  
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Cowbridge

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/00118/ADV  
Proposal/Cynnig: Installation of 1 No. 'halo' illuminated fascia sign and 1 No. externally illuminated projecting sign  
Location/Lleoliad: 5D, Stanwell Road, Penarth  
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

### Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01171/LBC  
Proposal/Cynnig: Renovation/replacement of windows in grade II listed building  
Location/Lleoliad: The Old Vicarage, Wick Road, St. Brides Major  
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/00067/LBC  
Proposal/Cynnig: Install a retractable awning in rear yard  
Location/Lleoliad: The Market Place Restaurant, 66, High Street, Cowbridge

Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II\*  
Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/00124/LBC  
Proposal/Cynnig: The addition of a conservatory to the rear of the property enclosed in the courtyard. The replacement of the garage doors with glazed units construct an opening between the oak room and the vestibule  
Location/Lleoliad: Llansannor Court, Llansannor,  
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade I

### Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/00026/FUL  
Proposal/Cynnig: Installation of a 2.2MW solar farm and associated infrastructure  
Location/Lleoliad: Land at Court Farm, Treoes

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/00075/FUL  
Proposal/Cynnig: Redevelopment of the site for 47 dwellings, car parking and any associated works  
Location/Lleoliad: Ysgol Maes Dyfan, Gibbonsdown Rise, Barry

### May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/00026/FUL  
Proposal/Cynnig: Installation of a 2.2MW solar farm and associated infrastructure  
Location/Lleoliad: Land at Court Farm, Treoes

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manyllion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 19 February, 2015

M. Goldsworthy  
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,  
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT



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**Breastfriends support group BARRY**  
Breastfriends (part of Cardiff and Vale Breast Cancer Support Group) will meet on **Friday, February 20, at 2pm in the Masonic Hall on Broad Street.**

Sue Youngman will give an illustrated talk about her charity work with 'Barbra' and her trek to Cuba in aid of Breast Cancer Care.

For more details about the group, phone Pam on 07919 035658.



# Niamh wins battle for vital operation



Celebrating the good news – dad Chris, Alun Cairns MP, Niamh Hurn, mum Michelle and sister Jazmin.

A nine-year-old Barry primary school pupil has won her battle to undergo a £30,000 operation to help her walk.

Niamh Hurn was in a race against time because the medical advice was that the procedure – selective dorsal rhizotomy – needed to be done before she was 10 years old.

The GEM featured Niamh's plight four years ago. Her spinal condition has meant that her movement has had to be assisted and supervised.

But that is about to change, and mum Michelle and dad Chris are thrilled.

Michelle said: "Niamh and the family are really excited. The operation will mean she will be

by GEM  
REPORTER

much more independent and able to grow into a young lady.

"We will be talking to Bristol Children's Hospital on Wednesday or Thursday to get a final date.

"When she goes in, it will be for two to three weeks. Fortunately, both of our employers are accommodating.

"We want to thank Alun (the local MP) and his team – without them we couldn't have achieved this."

Niamh will be one of the first children in Wales to undergo the surgery, which is being funded by NHS Wales.

Mr Cairns had previously backed the Hurn family campaign,

which aimed to get enough in donations to fund the operation privately – over £16,000 has been raised.

Mr Cairns also contacted the local health board to raise the issue over the need for Niamh to receive the operation before her 10th birthday in December 2015.

Mr Cairns said: "I am absolutely thrilled at the news that Niamh will get the much-needed operation in the spring. We have been working hard for several months to get the operation approved on the NHS.

"The Hurn family are a credit to the community – they have done an incredible amount of fundraising, and to see how happy the family were upon receiving the news is already a highlight of my year."

# St Donat's man wins the Vale of Glamorgan Hedging match

THE Vale of Glamorgan Hedging match took place on Sunday, by permission of Tony Evans, Marcross Farm, and main sponsor for the day, Jonathan Edwards of Ty Newydd Farm, Sigginston.

The overall winner was Lloyd Thomas of Splott Farm, St Donat's; runner-up was Michael Thomas of Sutton Newydd, Llandow; and third place went to Martyn Webb of Penbwh Uchaf Farm, Pontypridd.

RIGHT: judge Adam Llewellyn presents the shield to Lloyd Thomas.



# The Chinese 'Year of the Sheep' heralds good fortune for Ewenice and EweMove..!

ADVERTISEMENT

CELEBRATING the upcoming Chinese New Year, the rapidly growing sales and letting agent, EweMove, is set for more good fortune in 2015.

February 19 is the start of the Year of the Sheep and significantly for EweMove, it's the year of the female, green sheep that people across the world will be celebrating!

EweMove's logo and company mascot is a friendly female green sheep called Ewenice, and all of their marketing has a strong sheep theme.

The Year of the Sheep is a great coincidence and spells good fortune for this unique estate agency.

EweMove directors Karen and Richard comments: "We were thrilled when we found out that 2015 was the Year of the Sheep, having had an amazing 2014, we are set up for even more in 2015."



ABOVE: Ewenice, EweMove's green sheep, is expecting a busy 2015.

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# You too could become a 'Dementia Friend'!



**DURING the first two weeks of February, I ran 'Dementia Friends' sessions for the 1st Llantwit Major Cubs and Scouts and made 22 Dementia Friends.**

A Dementia Friend is someone who has attended a one-hour information session and has committed to an action that will make the lives of people living with dementia a little better.

Every action counts – spreading the word about dementia, spending time with a friend or family member who has dementia, recommending becoming a Dementia

Friend to others.

Dementia Friends is an Alzheimer's Society-led initiative, funded by the Department of Health and the Cabinet Office.

It aims to increase dementia awareness and change the way the nation thinks, talks and acts about dementia and is part of the Prime Minister's 'Challenge on Dementia'. The target for the initiative is to make one million Dementia Friends across the UK. Currently, there are almost 900,000 Dementia Friends.

I became a Dementia Champion in May 2014 – that means a volunteer who has

undertaken additional Dementia Friends information briefings to be able to deliver the relevant sessions.

Since May last year, I have delivered 16 sessions and made 236 Dementia Friends. Throughout March and April this year I have more sessions planned and, hopefully, many more Dementia Friends to make.

To find out more about the Dementia Friends initiative, go to [dementiafriends.org.uk/](http://dementiafriends.org.uk/) and consider becoming a Dementia Friend or Dementia Champion.

**By Carolyn Veal-Shaw – Dementia Champion, Cardiff and the Vale.**

## Who wants to build what, and where, in the Vale of Glamorgan?

Mr P Hicks – Plot 5, Craig yr Eos Avenue, Ogmere by Sea – Proposed construction of detached residential dwelling.

Mrs Justine Harlow – 18 Vennwood Close, Wenvoe – Single storey extension to rear and minor alterations.

Mr Maurice Thompson – 110 High Street, Barry – Change of use first and second floor to A2.

Mr Martin Brewer – Old Lime Works, St Athan Road, Aberthaw – Proposed steel framed storage barn to store plant and feed.

Dr PE Jones – Greenway Farm, Bonvilston – Change of use of land to residential curtilage of Greenway Farm and conversion of barn and alterations to form 'granny annexe'.

Mr Robin Burge – 43 Millbrook Road, Dinas Powys – Single storey side extension.

Miss C Jones – Land at Twchwyn Garth, Llangan – Amendment to Consent 2010/01073/FUL – change of location of arena in connection with stables at Twchwyn Garth, Llangan.

Mr Roy Mohamed – St Markella, Station Road West, Wenvoe – Retention of boundary fence.

Sunrise Renewables (Barry) Ltd – David Davies Road, Woodham Road, Barry – Outline application for a wood-fired renewable energy plant.

Mr and Mrs Phil Duffield – 57 Brockhill Way, Penarth – Existing rear conservatory to be replaced with a single storey extension; new garage door and roof over to side with glazed canopy to rear.

Mrs Dolan – Llantrithyd House, Llantrithyd Road, Llantrithyd – Erection of a timber conservatory.

WS Jones and Son – Tyn Y Coed Farm, Bonvilston – Erection of an agricultural building.

PREZZO plc – PREZZO, 16 Windsor Road, Penarth – New projecting and fascia signs.

Cadoxton Community Primary School – Cadoxton Community Primary School, Victoria Park, Cadoxton, Barry – To extend existing annexe building to Cadoxton Community Primary School.

Dr Graham Givens – Kenswood, Kingswood Close, Ewenny – Erection of extensions, dormer, porch and detached garage.

Dr Nicola Hall – Pentre Parc Farm, Llyswoerdy, Cowbridge – Extension to existing bungalow.

Mr Brandon Walters – Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Aberthorn Road, Cowbridge – The construction of a single extension to the existing art block, a single storey extension to the existing dining hall/kitchen and a proposed new two-storey reception building within the grounds of Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Mrs Heather Brock – Church House, Fort Road, Lavernock – Proposed part single storey and part two storey extension/s to the existing dwelling to include: provision of new detached garage, internal reconfiguration/enabling works to existing dwelling and minor external works.

Persimmon Homes East Wales – Ysgol Maes Dyfan, Gibbonsdown Rise, Barry – Redevelopment of the site for 47 dwellings, car parking and any associated works.

Mr James Law – St Nicholas House, St Nicholas – Conversion of St Nicholas House and garage block into two semi-detached dwellings.

Mrs Cheryl Edwards – Rosemount, Peterston Super Ely – Demolition of existing mono pitch rear single storey extension and replacement with

a larger single storey extension with a combination of mono pitch and flat roof.

Mr Mark Hewitson – 7 Port Road East, Barry – Two storey side extension.

Vale of Glamorgan Council, Architects section – 20 Crawshay Court, Boverton, Llantwit Major – New conservatory for storage of access equipment and up accessibility upgrades of external access to building.

Mrs Norma Barber – The Briars, Parc Newydd, Treoes – Ground and first floor extension.

Mr Peter Kirkup – Lower Lodge, Ewenny – Double garage and store.

Mrs Jeanette Stroud – 1 Coed Mawr, Barry – Rear extension to provide ground floor disabled bathroom and day lounge.

Mr BT Jones – 9 Park Road, Penarth – Alterations and extensions to existing dwelling; existing lean-to to be demolished.

Mr C Owens – 15 Cae Gwyn, Penarth – Conversion of garage to habitable living space.

Mr Toby Sullivan – 103 Murlande Way, Rhose – Raise levels at perimeter of rear boundary in line with existing ground level and construction of boundary wall and new fence.

Mrs Paula Mason – The Rectory, 8 Ger y Llan, St Nicholas – Single storey rear extension.

Mr and Mrs Collard – 2 Priory Gardens, Churchfields, Barry – Proposed single storey extension to rear to form sun room.

Dr David Gareth Price – 14 Clevedon Avenue, Sully – Alterations and extension to existing detached dwelling plus associated works.

Ms Keeva Caomhe – 13 Leoline Close, Cowbridge – Retrospective permission for a single storey timber shed erected in rear of garden

Nov/Dec 2014. For use ancillary to use of the domestic dwelling house.

Mr Terry Kidd – 2 Robin Hill, Dinas Powys – Retrospective application for replacement of existing flat roof to garage and entrance lobby with new pitched roof. Roof materials to match those of the existing, with ridge and eave heights to be no higher.

Mr Craig Macdonald – Ash Cottage, Ystradowen – Change of use of existing building and store to provide residential accommodation.

Mr Raymond Bolter – 27 Iltyd Avenue, Llantwit Major – Construction of rear extension consisting of kitchen area, dining area and cloakroom.

Mr Guy Leach – The Old Post Office, 61-63 Eastgate, Cowbridge – Removal of conditions 16, 17 and 18 of planning permission 2012/00455/FUL.

Mr Roy Burston – Conifers, Old Rectory Drive, St Nicholas – T1 – Remove betula pendula; T3 – reduce Lime by 2.5m; T4 – fell pinus nigra. Subway Penarth Ltd – 5D Stanwell Road, Penarth – Installation of one 'halo' illuminated fascia sign and one externally illuminated projecting sign.

Master Aneurin Skone – 105 Plymouth Road, Penarth – Creation of a gateway and off-road parking space for a disabled person.

Mr Mark Boland – 28A The Yard, Station Road, Penarth – Lawful use of workshop as B2 use.

Mr Michael Eddershaw – Llansannor Court, Llansannor – The addition of a conservatory to the rear of the property enclosed in the courtyard. The replacement of the garage doors with glazed units, construct an opening between the oak room and the vestibule.

President-elect Paul Halstead, with the Vale Mayor and Mayoress and catering students at Cardiff and Vale College.

**BARRY Rotarians and guests, including the Mayor and Mayoress of the Vale, Howard Hamilton and Margaret Hamilton, enjoyed a meal prepared and served by catering students of Cardiff and Vale College in the Glamorgan Suite of the Colcot Road Campus last week.**

President-elect Paul Halstead congratulated the students and paid tribute to the Vale and Barry Town councils for their continued support for the Rotary Club's annual Fireworks Fiesta held on November 5.

The club continues to make monthly donations to the local foodbank; plans are well in hand to celebrate St David's

Day with an early breakfast on Friday, February 27 at St Andrew's Golf Club, and underprivileged children will be taken to Brean Sands in June, as part of Rotary's Nation Kids Out programme.

None of these events would be possible without the continued support of public, for which the Rotary Club of Barry is very grateful.

**JILL OSBORNE**

**WHAT'S ON - In brief**

**Family fun in Llantwit**  
A FAMILY fun and craft fair is taking place at Llantwit Major Rugby Club on Saturday, February 21 from 12 noon to 4pm.

Jam, pickles, chutneys from a 'Bit of a Pickle', and children's activities including face painting, ceramics and crafts.

Charity stalls for Welsh Horse and Pony Group and for Animal Welfare.

**First Responders 'Irish Night'**  
LLANTWIT Major First Responder coordinators Liz and Byron Evans are running an 'Irish Night' charity evening for Welsh Hearts/Calonnau Cymru at the Duke of Wellington public house in Cowbridge on Friday, March 13 at 7.30pm.

The band Henry Marten's Ghost Band will be playing. Tickets for the event are £10 per person.

This is the night before the Wales v Ireland match! If you require tickets contact Liz on [lizabeth13@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lizabeth13@hotmail.co.uk).



*Pictured promoting the new Marie Curie Carers' Café are helper service volunteers Lind Stephens and Elaine Philips, carer Margaret Pearce, and patient volunteer Chris Pearce.*

## Marie Curie opens a new Carers' Café

**THE Marie Curie hospice in Penarth is set to host a new Carers' Café – for people caring for someone with a terminal illness.**

It will provide the opportunity for carers to meet in an informal setting and chat over a cake and a cuppa and the first session will be held on Tuesday, March 3 between 2pm and 4pm, with subsequent sessions held on the first and last Tuesdays of every month.

The café will be led by hospice staff, and will also be supported by a community nurse and a social worker.

The initiative is part of the charity's successful Caring for Carers project, funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

Susan Court, who manages the three-year project, said: "We decided

to introduce this new session after identifying a lack of social groups for carers in and around Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. If you have an hour or two to spare, why not drop in? It's free to attend and you don't need to book in advance.

"For Carers' Café we want to create somewhere people can meet others and share their experience, find helpful information, or just have some time to themselves."

For more information about the Carers' Café, please contact Sarah Johnson on 02920 426023 or email [sarah.johnson@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:sarah.johnson@mariecurie.org.uk).

Further details about the support Marie Curie offers for carers can be found at [www.mariecurie.org.uk/caringforcarers](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/caringforcarers)

at Susan Court, who manages the three-year project, said: "We decided

## STUDENTS CATER FOR ROTARIAN GUESTS IN STYLE



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# Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email [gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk)

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER.

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

## Planning procedure in Wales is 'undemocratic and not fit for purpose'

**I**N their local election manifesto, prospective Labour councillors pledged that the Draft Local Development Plan prepared by the Conservatives would be re-visited.

A new consultation would reflect the needs and desires of people living in the Vale.

This pledge has been dishonoured. As at February 2015, no LDP is in place. Several landowners and large housing developers armed with professional advisers have exploited the situation by submitting planning applications for

new estates throughout the rural Vale.

Many have been approved by the Vale Council despite vigorous objections from affected communities.

In theory, the planning proposal process is open handed with all parties involved having the opportunity to present their plans, opinions and objections. The planning officer then prepares a report with a recommendation to the council planning committee, who have the statutory power to make the decision of approval or rejection.

The proposer has the right of appeal against a rejection to the Welsh Government on any grounds, whereas objectors can appeal only if a procedural mistake has been made.

The reality is somewhat different. The proposer is often a UK housing developer with vast financial resources.

Their position is made more favourable by them offering financial payments to the council to fund projects which may or may not be connected with the planning proposal.

These payments are euphemistically referred to as "Section 106 Agreements".

The position of the objectors is very different. The financial costs of employing professional consultants are borne by, in most cases, community councils with limited funds or private individuals.

Their costs cannot be recovered, unlike the developers who hope to make a substantial profit on the sale of the housing development.

There is also an option to submit a call-in request to Welsh Government. This must be done before the council issues its decision notice. Recent rural Vale call-in requests were rejected.

There could be a Judicial Review. Costly – and even if successful the developer usually submits a revised application to restart the process. A topical example is Darren Farm, renamed in the new application "North West Cowbridge".

A complaint could be made to the council with a request for the decision process to be examined. They were judge and jury on the original decision. How can that same council be expected to act as appeal tribunal in a fair and reasonable manner?

A complaint could be made to the Public Service Ombudsman, who refuses to intervene until the council has reviewed the matter.

The existing planning procedure in Wales is not fit for purpose. It clearly favours the large housing developers whose influence over the process is unlimited.

The system is undemocratic and in urgent need of change.

Paul H Simpson, Colwinston.

## Hospital wait for a consultant

**I** WAS taken into the Princess of Wales Hospital on Monday, February 10, arriving at 6pm, with a suspected heart attack.

The ambulance arrived at the surgery within 15 minutes which was an excellent response time.

I had blood and other tests within one hour, waited two hours for results, was told that I had to have a further blood test after another six hours, and that I had to stay overnight. The results of these came through at 4am.

There were no available beds, so I had to sit in the waiting room for a total of fourteen and a half hours, which was until 8.30am on Tuesday morning to see the consultant.

The reason for this wait was that there are only junior doctors during the night and they are not capable of making decisions.

I think that this is disgusting, it is quite obvious to me that this Assembly Government keeps changing the Health Minister, but is incapable of sorting our health service.

Roy Jones, Cowbridge.

## ANSWER IS TO LEARN WELSH!

**T**HE anonymous person who has created a furore about Cowbridge being an "oasis of Englishness" etc is surely being racist?

Also if someone wants to remain anonymous, does this not indicate that he/she is cowardly or lacks conviction?

And why live in a country whose language you hate? I have learnt Welsh and love to speak it.

Maybe Peter Reed from Barry (February 5) would like to do so? It would give him something to do, instead of moaning about everything Welsh!

Diolch yn fawr, Ann Fisher, Miskin.

## Greens surge towards a fairer society

**GEM readers may be aware that, over the past six months or so, membership of the Green Party in England and Wales has more than doubled, with new members continuing to join daily.**

There are now over 1,500 members in Wales. Within the Vale, membership has mirrored this increase, the number of members having risen from 25 to 50 since November.

For many new members this may be the first time they have joined a political party.

They, and any other people interested in learning more of the Green Party and its policies, are invited to an evening meeting on Wednesday, February 25 at 7.45pm, at the

Bonvilston Reading Room, Bonvilston.

As the Green Party candidate in the Vale, I will be happy to answer questions and to discuss policies, as well as meeting members and supporters who would be willing to help during the election campaign e.g. to distribute leaflets and attend hustings.

The 'Green surge' in membership would suggest that an increasing number of people are deeply unhappy at the policies and performances of the main political parties, and are attracted by the Green Party's message of the need for major change towards a fairer society.

Alan Armstrong, Penarth

## Work at Dyfan open space

**A resident who lives near Dyfan open space, Barry, which is to become a lagoon, as part of a flood prevention scheme, says she was concerned to hear that the Vale Council planned to recut undergrowth in the area.**

Tracey Aberly explained: "We got a letter through on Friday to say recutting of undergrowth would start on Monday, February 23. I think it could be a waste of money. They cut the area last year. What are they going to cut? Hedges? Trees? They are going to dig the field out anyway. Added to that, the nesting season is almost upon us."

Phil Beaman of the Vale Council, said: "The work being undertaken at Dyfan Road simply involves cutting back any previously cleared areas that have regrown. This cutting back is being undertaken before the start of the nesting season so that it can go ahead without any disruption to nesting birds."

## £30,000 facelift

**ELEVEN shops and businesses along Nolton Street, Bridgend are getting a fresh lick of paint to complement recent improvements to pavements and highways in Bridgend.**

Contractors appointed by Bridgend County Borough Council will begin work in the next fortnight.

It is hoped that the £30,000 refurbishments, which are being paid for from the council's special regeneration fund, will encourage more people to come and shop in the town centre.

## CHORAL SOCIETY

**BARRY Choral Society will be joining Barry Ladies' Choir and Barry Male Voice Choir to present a concert organised by Barry Town Council on February 27, at St Mary's Church, Holton Road at 7pm.**

They invite the public, each Wednesday at Crossway Methodist Church between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. For more information, contact Sheila on 01446 748724, or Helen on 02920 531359.

## MP and skipper check out GEM!



VALE MP Alun Cairns met Wales captain Sam Warburton on the Friday before the squad left for Scotland – Sam was catching up on The GEM match report from the England game!

## Staff celebrate as they raise more than £4,000 for Ty Hafan charity



Gareth Howells (left), general manager at Wessex Garages, and Matt Jones, digital sales executive at the dealership, celebrate raising money for Ty Hafan during 2013 and 2014.

**STAFF at an award-winning dealership in Cardiff are celebrating this month, after raising £4,052.20 for their Charity of the Year.**

The funds were raised for Ty Hafan by staff and customers at Wessex Garages on Hadfield Road throughout 2013 and 2014. Gareth Howells, General Manager at Wessex Garages, explained: "Throughout the past two years we organised and took part in various activities to raise money for Ty Hafan."

"Our most popular event in 2014 was our fundraising evening with the Cardiff Blues in December, during which £1,017.93 was raised. Our digital sales executive, Matt Jones, did an eight-hour static cycle challenge in June and raised £204 for the organisation. Matt was proactive with fundraising ideas and helped to organise the events so a thank you message goes to him."

"We would also like to thank our staff and customers for supporting the events and helping us raise a fantastic amount of money for Ty Hafan during the past two years. We have ended our support for the charity on a high. We are currently in the process of choosing another local charity to support in 2015."

Ty Hafan offers comfort, care and support for life-limited children and young people in Wales. It is dedicated to

improving the quality of life for the whole family free of charge.

It was established in 1999 and has helped more than 600 families who live with the reality that their children with life-limiting conditions may not reach the age of 18.

Eleanor Ryan, business and community fundraiser at Ty Hafan, said: "Wessex organised some fantastic fundraisers throughout the two years and also supplied us with four-wheeled support for some of our own events."

"We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all the staff and customers that made this donation possible. The final figure of £4,052.20 is amazing and will really help local families."

"We take support right into the family home and are there to help families through every step of their unimaginable journey. For Ty Hafan to offer this unique service to families in Wales, we have to raise more than £3.7 million every year." Wessex Garages is a privately-owned company that has outlets in Bristol, Cardiff, Gloucester and Newport. It specialises in new and used car sales across South Wales and the South West.

For more information, please call Wessex Garages on Hadfield Road on 02921 677 650, or visit [www.wessexgarages.com](http://www.wessexgarages.com), follow the company on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/wessexgarages](http://www.twitter.com/wessexgarages) or log on to [www.facebook.com/wessexgarages](http://www.facebook.com/wessexgarages).



# From one student council to another!



The student council has been kept busy!

THIS week, the year-7 student council at Llantwit Major Comprehensive went to 5 primary schools to speak to the year-6 student council.

We visited Wick, Rhws, St Illtyd, Llanilltud Fawr and St Athan. We talked about transition and areas in which we can improve it. We also planned a year 6 and 7 transition disco and we asked for their opinions.

I enjoyed speaking to the different schools and I thought it was good fun.

by Bethan Roberts (year-7)

## WORKSHOPS WILL FOCUS ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



The Vale's 'Rights Ambassadors'.

MEMBERS of the Vale Youth Service's Rights Ambassadors project are planning workshops to enhance young people and adults' knowledge of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

"Over the course of the last three months, young people have completed a level two Agored Cymru unit about the UNCRC, so that they are fully equipped with the knowledge they need to develop workshops," a spokesperson said.

## Can you ease Jess's fears?

JESS, a three-year-old Alaskan Malamute, is bright and active, but has been under-socialised in her early years, leaving her worried with other dogs.

Once she has made a friend, she plays very nicely, so we hope to find the right dog for her to live with.

She's lively, playful and loves her toys. It is essential that we find Jess an owner who is experienced in training dogs, and who can give her the exercise she needs to keep her happy and healthy.

She can live with children over 14 years of age, and with a patient owner in the right home, she will make a loving companion.

If you can offer Jess, or any of our dogs a home, call 01656 725219, or visit Dogs Trust Bridgend; we are open from 12-4pm every day, except Wednesday.

LINDA FEAGAN  
(Supporter Relations Officer  
Dogs Trust Bridgend)



## Headteacher has VIP date at Number 10

BARRY headteacher, Clare Lewis, recently attended a reception for teachers hosted by the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street.

Miss Lewis, from All Saints Primary School, was nominated to attend the reception by Vale MP Alun Cairns.

He said: "I was delighted to have had the opportunity to nominate and join Clare at the reception in honour of teachers doing excellent work around the country. "I have visited All Saints Primary many times now, and have always been impressed with how the school operates."

Prime Minister David



CLARE LEWIS.

Cameron said: "With such dedicated and inspiring teachers in our schools I know we can ensure our children get the best chance to succeed.

"It was an honour to celebrate their commitment at this reception."

## GEM SPORTS EXTRA



Margaret Thomas and Sian Lovell, with Helen.

## Skip Helen drives in at Cottrell



Helen with Sara Alexander, Mary Watkins and Maureen Bowen.

ON a cold frosty morning the new ladies' captain of Cottrell Park, Helen Poole, did an incredibly long straight drive, watched by many of the ladies.

The prize for the flag nearest where the ball had landed was won by Madeleine John. Then 30 ladies played a nine hole competition with the best two out of three scores to count - this was won by Toots Plant, Sian Lovell and Margaret Thomas with 36 points, with Mary Watkins, Sara Alexander and Maureen Bowen second with 32 points.

More ladies then joined for an excellent lunch where Helen welcomed every one, and she presented prizes to the ladies who won the competition. She is looking forward to her year in office.

She then presented Janet Cosby, past ladies' captain, with a gift from all the ladies. The new diary with all the events



Madeleine Johns.

for the coming year was distributed and it is hoped it will be a good year weather-wise.



ABOVE: Gareth Long with match ball sponsor Rebecca Skinner of RS Podiatry.

## Saints demolish Builders

BARRY SAINTS progressed to the next round of the Cup with a 5-1 victory over a good John Davey Builders side on a very tricky pitch.

Saints took the lead through Darren Townsend and had Gareth Hegarty to thank in goal allowing them to go into halftime 1-0 up.

Saints added another goal through Townsend, after a great cushioned header by Nathan Williams set him up, but the Builders grabbed a goal after a short goal kick was pounced upon.

Saints then made a few changes which

worked in their favour and Michael Evans came on and turned provider for Nathan Williams after a perfect through ball over the defence left Williams to smash the ball home.

Williams then put Townsend through one on one for the Saints talisman to unselfishly lay the ball off for Evans to tap in to the empty net.

Ashley Ashill finished the scoring, converting a one on one through the keeper's legs.

Special thanks to Rebecca Skinner of RS Podiatry for sponsoring the match ball.

GL

## RHOOSE ROVERS GO DIRECT!

SINCE the successes of last season, Rhose Rovers FC look like they are on the up.

They have moved up to a higher division, after completing the double of Division Two champions 2013-14 and Dockers Cup winners 2014.

The increase in standard has no doubt been a challenge for the Rovers, alongside a large absentee list in the opening few months of the season. However, with improvements on both the injury and absentee list, it looks like the Rovers are challenging at the right end of the table and will be hoping to recapture the form that saw them complete the double last season.

Signings were made in January but the most crucial signing was the securing of major sponsor Go Direct.

The company, started by Craig Trickett, offers high level tuition for anyone looking to obtain their driving licence. The company has grown so much in a short space of time, spreading across Cardiff and the Vale and can only continue to

grow in the future.

Go Direct School of Motoring has been one of the main catalysts behind the Rovers' success this season and hopefully for many seasons to come.

The club would also like to say massive thanks to John Black (match ball), K.R. Building Services and the Cambrian (formerly known as the Flying Club) for their continued support over the last few years - the club wouldn't function without you all.

This Saturday sees the Rovers push towards a second visit to Jenner Park as they face Cadroxton Athletic in the Divisional Cup at 2pm at Ceri Road, and they have an outside chance of challenging for promotion if injuries are kept to a minimum.

If there are any potential sponsors/players that are interested in helping the development of the club, please get in contact with one of our current players/coaches. New sponsors can help by sponsoring a match ball or by sponsoring training/match kit.

AB



# Local building society come to the rescue of club hit by thieves



Members of Maesteg Park FC with Ruth Davies, Principality Building Society's Maesteg branch manager.

**THE Principality Building Society came to the rescue of Maesteg Park Football Club after hearing that thieves stole a full set of new football shirts and water bottles.**

The society, which has a branch in Maesteg, stepped in to help the team and provided them with new kit.

Andrew Jones, first team manager, said:

"We are so grateful to the Principality for helping us replace the kit. When our kit got stolen we weren't sure what to do as it would have taken a while for us to get the money to buy a new one."

"But straightaway we had a call from Principality saying they would replace them and they also stated that the new kit should have the original sponsors, Garn Stores, emblazoned on the front, which is a

fantastic gesture. We are so thankful to them for their support."

Ruth Davies, Principality Building Society's Maesteg branch manager, said: "We were delighted to be able to help Maesteg Park FC in their hour of need, as the team is an important part of the community not only for the players but for the people around the town."

## PORTHCAWL JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

# Youth side through to Welsh Bowl semi-finals!

**PORTHCAWL Youth moved on to the semi-finals of the Welsh Bowl Competition after a bruising game at Graig Parc against Penygraig, winning 5-3.**

The home team started off well and immediately put pressure on the Porthcawl defence. Egged on by a large partisan crowd, Penygraig kept the ball tight but Porthcawl managed to absorb the pressure, knocking back the home ball carriers with some big hits.

However, as the game progressed the away team began to use their pace and were unlucky on several occasions not to cross the try line.

The game soon turned into a stale mate only to be broken with a penalty kick to Penygraig.

The second half was pretty much a carbon copy of the first with both sides committing themselves manfully in an effort to gain control of the game.

As legs began to get tired on the heavy pitch, gaps in the defensive lines began to appear. Porthcawl's Ollie Banner took advantage of this and a scything break from the outside half saw him cut through a gap to link with centre Jacob Thomas who scored an unconverted try wide out.

This was the only score of the half with Porthcawl running out as deserved winners.

It was also pleasing that the referee took time after the game to compliment the young Seaweeds upon their attitude, stating that it was, in his opinion, their discipline that won them the game.

CHRIS WINTLE

### UNDER-12s

Porthcawl 20, Cowbridge 5 - try scorers Ollie 2, Aaron and Rohan.

### UNDER-10s

Porthcawl 50, Maesteg Celtic 20 - try scorers Luke Roberts (4), Josh Woodbridge (2), Stefan Yardley (2), Jack Olding, Rhys.

### UNDER-8s

**PORTHCAWL 5 MAESTEG CELTIC 11**  
**PORTHCAWL 13 LLANHARAN 11**

We were again slow at getting our game going in the first game against Maesteg.

We stood off Maesteg's strong runners and time and time again they were breaching our defence, allowing them to score at will. Our low tag count from whole team sums up our defence at the moment

One player who didn't take a backward step and stood out in defence was Ben, who previously stood static or drifted backwards, but not today and for the second week running was fearless, showing great line speed and closing the gaps and holding the line all day.

Well done Ben for winning top tagger with 11 tags, with special mention in defence going to Dewi (15), Rose (11), Piers (10) and Oscar (9). Other players playing without fear were Lewis and Brody who picked up the making a difference and individual effort awards respectively.

With Lewis scoring four tries and Brody with three they put in a strong all round performance running great attacking lines, who were followed closely by Rose who again dominated the defensive line and ran some excellent lines but was unlucky not to get on the scoreboard.

Against Llanharan both teams played a different style of rugby looking to exploit the space and pass the ball along the line before the tag, which for me was shown in try of the day.

It started with Ben, who stepped off his left foot and then his right moving the defence from left to right before drawing in the defence and passing to Theo, who looked up and with only two players to beat passed to Dewi into space who had a free run into the corner.

Other players putting in a shift in this game were Piers and Oscar, both scoring two tries apiece, with Piers throwing himself into a great try-saving tackle.

This week we are home again to Pencoed and then a weekend off.

Try scorers: Lewis (4), Ryan, Brody (3), Piers (2), Oscar (2), Dewi (6).

ROB HOOPER

### UNDER-7s

Porthcawl 18, Maesteg Celtic 6; Porthcawl 18, Cwmavon 8.

Player awards went to James Owen (man of the match), Sam Davies and Adam Kelly (achievement awards).

GERAINT EVANS

# Mynydd Cynffig Primary's win in schools netball tournament

**M Y N Y D D CYNFFIG Junior School's netball team triumphed at the Bridgend county borough primary school championships, held recently in the Ogmore Valley Life Centre.**

Organised in partnership by BCBC's active young people's department and Welsh Netball, the one-day tournament saw a total of 28 matches played by boys and girls from schools across the county borough.

The winners were closely followed by Plasnewydd Primary who took second place, and West Park Primary, who came third.

Among the spectators was Wales and Celtic Dragons star Kelly Morgan, who posed for photographs and signed autographs for the young players.

Kelly, from Maesteg, said: "It was wonderful to see the youngsters playing in the



Mynydd Cynffig take the Bridgend title and go on to the Glamorgan Valleys final.

tournament. There was a great atmosphere and so much talent - definitely some future stars! It was also great to see boys competing.

"I think netball offers the ideal opportunity for both sexes to play and we'll hopefully see lots more taking part. Well done to all the schools involved."

Both Mynydd Cynffig and Plasnewydd will now progress through to the Glamorgan Valleys final, in April at the University of South Wales. They will battle with the top two teams from Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taff for the opportunity to reach the Welsh finals at Sophia Gardens in May.

**ON Monday, the Barry Chess Club had two matches.**

The Camelots took on local rivals Penarth Pirates, with the Quarks entertaining St Johns' College Leptons.

Both matches ended with 4-1 victories for Barry, and of the 10 boards in action we only lost one game so it was a good night all round.

The pick of the games featured Pagona Mavroyenneas. Over the past two weeks her father Nick has obtained good results and this time it was daughter Pagona's turn.

In the opening she won a pawn but, being a generous player she soon found herself a piece down. However there were a number of players milling around who were willing her to find a winning move.

She had an opportunity but failed to spot it, however her opponent also failed to spot it. The second time she found the move to record her first ever win in the league - well done Pagona.

Later in the week, the Bosons traveled to Cardiff

to take on league leaders the Cardiff Castles.

In a reversal of fortune the Bosons earned a 3.5-1.5 win; this moves the Bosons up to fourth.

More importantly the Camelots have gained ground on the Castles and move up to second, only 1.5 points behind. Also of note here a new but experienced player to Barry, Matthew Davies, played his first games for us in both the Bosons and Camelots matches recording a win in both.

The fourth round of the Club Championships also took place this week.

It was a good night to be playing black on the top boards and the championship is surely now a three-way fight between Ashley Davis, Craig Woolcock and Mat Parry.

The 2014 champion, Lee Davis is putting up a title defence reminiscent of Manchester United during the David Moyes era!

Unbeaten Windsor Lewis holds on to his lead in the plate on tie-break from Chris Green, while Dave Mahoney holds a slight edge over Nick Mavroyenneas in the battle for the Bowl (assuming

Windsor is destined for greater glory).

On the night both Windsor Lewis and Stephen Bonutto drew games against players graded around 300 points higher than them.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at [barrychessclub.yolasite.com](http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com).

PHIL JONES

# GOOD WEEK FOR CHESS TEAMS

Send your news and reports to: [gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk)





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**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 25 February 2015**

 Vale of Glamorgan Council
  Hafod Housing Association
  Newydd Housing Association
  United Welsh
  Wales and West Housing Association



To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at  
**HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**  
 or apply in writing to:

**Vale of Glamorgan Council**  
**Visible Services and Housing**  
 Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or  
**Newydd Housing Association**  
 121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

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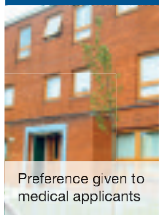
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**FEEDBACK**

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Cwm Parc	14	Bronze	03/09/14
Dale Court	6	Gold	26/11/14
Eagleswell Road	17	Silver	21/01/14
Hunt Place	29	Silver	25/10/13
Lloyd Avenue	77	Gold	03/10/14
Nightingale Place	26	Gold	15/05/14
Peterswell Road	21	Silver+	28/10/14
Queens Road	32	Silver	20/06/13
St Lukes Avenue	26	Gold	23/09/14
Tensing Terrace	29	Gold	19/11/14
Ty Ffynnon	16	Silver+	10/06/14

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For an application pack contact Housing Strategy by telephone on (01446) 709476, or by e-mail at [housingstrategy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:housingstrategy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).



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<b>WINIFRED AVENUE</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good size semi</li> <li>• Ideal family property</li> <li>• 3 good bedrooms</li> <li>• Maintenance free gardens with off road parking</li> </ul> <b>£124,950</b>	<b>SEVERN AVENUE</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern 3 bedroom</li> <li>• End link property</li> <li>• Popular residential estate</li> <li>• Ideal for a first time buyer/investor</li> </ul> <b>£120,000</b>	<b>MALLORY CLOSE</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern mid link</li> <li>• Popular development in St Athan</li> <li>• Within driving distance of Barry and Llantwit Major</li> <li>• Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing</li> <li>• Vacant, no forward chain</li> </ul> <b>£89,950</b>	<b>THE PARADE, DESA FINADO</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique, rare opportunity</li> <li>• Spanish style detached</li> <li>• Sought after area - The Knap</li> <li>• Views across the Lake &amp; Somerset Coast</li> </ul> <b>£645,000</b>	<b>BUTTRILLS ROAD</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced</li> <li>• Rare opportunity</li> <li>• Unique detached period-style property</li> <li>• Spacious, 4 beds, 2 reception rooms, good sized garden</li> <li>• In the heart of Barry</li> </ul> <b>£270,000</b>
<b>CASTLE ROAD, RHOOSE</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional semi detached</li> <li>• In need of total refurbishment</li> <li>• Viewing by appointment only</li> <li>• No chain</li> </ul> <b>(SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED)</b>	<b>WOODHAM PARK</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large modern detached</li> <li>• In a quiet cul-de-sac on a popular residential development</li> <li>• Outskirts of Barry</li> </ul> <b>(SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED)</b>	<b>CHURCHFIELDS</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superb opportunity</li> <li>• Beautifully maintained</li> <li>• Oak doors &amp; floors, conservatory</li> <li>• 3 or 4 bedroom</li> <li>• Popular residential estate</li> <li>• No chain</li> </ul> <b>(SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED)</b>	<b>QUEEN STREET</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideal for a first time buyer/investor</li> <li>• Totally refurbished</li> <li>• No forward chain</li> <li>• Viewing recommended</li> </ul> <b>(SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED)</b>	<b>HEOL CLIFFRYDD</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideal for a first time buyer/investor</li> <li>• Large, ground floor</li> <li>• Lounge/kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite.</li> <li>• Vacant. No chain</li> </ul> <b>(SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED)</b>

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- Garden to front with a good sized garden to the rear
- In need of work throughout
- Would make an ideal investment property
- Offered freehold

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**UNDER OFFER**

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**Iltyd Avenue, Llantwit Major**  
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**Fairfield Rise, Llantwit Major**  
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**Elm Grove, St Athan**  
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**Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major**  
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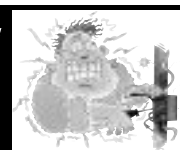
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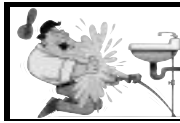
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# GEM FAMILY NOTICES

## RHODES

### Paula

Peacefully passed away at Milsom House Nursing Home, St Athan, Paula, aged 96 years, formerly of Llantwit Major. Will be sadly missed by her daughter Lynda, son-in-law Paul and her sisters, nieces and nephews.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Wednesday, 25th February in Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park Crematorium at 4pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Ty Hafan by cheque to the Funeral Home.

## EVANS

### June Irene

Passed away suddenly on 13 February at her home in Cowbridge. Very dearly beloved wife of Norman and cherished mother of Pauline, David, Lynda and Richard. Adored Nana to her 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends, and the many, many people whose lives she touched with her kindness.

No flowers by request, but donations in lieu (if desired) should be made to Noah's Ark Children's Hospital Charity, Cardiff Royal Infirmary, Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0SZ, or via JustGiving.

The funeral will be held at United Free Church, Westgate, Cowbridge at 2pm on Tuesday, 24th February.

Enquiries to Thomas Bros Funeral Directors  
01446 775681.

## GUERCIO

### Salvatore

On 12th February, at home after a long illness borne with great dignity, Salvatore fell asleep in death. Beloved husband of June. A devoted father of Maria, Paul and Lisa. Much loved grandfather to all his grandchildren. Beloved son of Seraphina and the late Guiseppe Guercio.

Service to be held at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, St Brides Way, Barry on Monday, 23rd February at 1pm, followed by interment at Merthyr Tydfil Cemetery, Barry. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962.

## EDWARDS

### Marsden

After an illness bravely borne, Marsden of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved husband of Carole. Much loved father of Darren, Tracey and Joanne. Loved and respected grandfather of Alice and Joseph.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Thursday, 26 February in Coychurch Crematorium at 10.30am. Family flowers only, but donations may be given to Y Bwthyn Newydd by cheque c/o the Funeral Home.

## ARMELIN

### Giovanna (Gianna)

Peacefully on February 12 at Llandough Hospital, Giovanna (Gianna), beloved wife of the late Toni. Adored mother of Carla, Paola, Francis, Anthony, Pia and the late Armando.

Gianna will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at AG Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry. To be received into St Helens Roman Catholic Church, Barry on Tuesday February 24 at 4pm. Requiem Mass Wednesday, February 25 at 11am. Afterwards family only for committal service at Barry Crematorium at 1pm. Family flowers only - if desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Cancer Research, Marie Curie Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth in memory of her loving son Armando.

## HARRIS

### Elsie

Peacefully on February 11 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Elsie of Porth-Y-Green, Llanblethian, beloved mother to David, Wayne, Michael and the late Jillian. Loving grandmother to all her grandchildren. Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, February 26 at 1.15pm. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to Gateway Monday Club, Cowbridge.

May you rest in peace.

## Anniversaries

### Dave & Chris Greenfield

are celebrating their

*Golden  
Anniversary*

on 20th  
February  
2015

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Happy  
Years  
Together"



## EVANS

### June (nee James)

Devoted sister of Anne, Rosemary, Gill, Jenn, Bill and the late Pauline. Sister-in-law Sue, brother-in-laws Graham, Smudger, George and Geoff.

Loved by all.

## JONES

### Elaine

Lesley, Ian and Alex would like to thank all mum's friends and neighbours for their support and kindness during the past few difficult weeks.

Also, thank you for the many cards and generous donations to Ty Hafan in her memory. Your support has been a greatly appreciated at this sad time.

## HERMAN

### 18th February 2003

Remembering you today Ed  
as we do every day.

Mum, Dad, Watts, Amelia & Annie

## WARD

### Alan Christopher

Suddenly on January 26, Alan of Llantwit Major, dearly loved husband of Sian, loving father of Christopher and Andrew.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Wednesday February 25, service and cremation 11.30am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, any donations in lieu, if desired, will be gratefully received by a charity of your choice.



# Barry Seconds march on in Cup



ABOVE: Barry RFC Seconds were in action on Saturday in the Mallet Cup and emerged 42-5 winners over Caerau Ely, and HOWARD POOLE was on hand to capture the match action – turn to page 38 to read the match report.

## New karate team is formed



Kudo team.

IN 2014, Sensei Malcolm Jones (4th Dan, Goshin Karate) was invited to join the prestigious Kudo UK branch of the international organisation.

Kudo is a mixed martial art comprising full contact punches, kicks, throws, and submission techniques on the ground. In November 2014, he presented the idea of fighting in the Kudo to his Karate students and the first Welsh Kudo team was born.

Recently, a group of six Kudo students led by their instructor, Sensei Malcolm, travelled to London to compete in this year's UK National Junior Kudo Championships.

The first fight of the day was an adult exhibition bout between Kudo Wales fighter, Terry Butler and the highest ranking fighter from Kudo Windsor. Within 30 seconds of the bout, Terry had thrown the English fighter to the ground three times with significant impact, finishing the fight with a powerful head shot.

Next up was 17-year-old A-Jay Harry, one of the team's most dedicated students. A-Jay was keen to impress landing a series of knee and body shots, leading to an unexpected second

place.

Jayden Moller, Stefan Atkinson and Brenton Kells all battled their way through the rounds, displaying excellent technique gaining respectable fourth places.

The highlight of the day was in the girls' junior category where Natasha Croll won all of her bouts by TKO.

Natasha used a combination of throws, punches and head kicks, gaining not only respect but the UK national title and an invitation to the World Championships in Japan. Natasha among others will now have the opportunity to represent the UK along with 60 other countries across the world.

Sensei Malcolm stated that there is too much politics in martial arts and would like to make an open invite to other fighters, no matter what style, to attend the Welsh Kudo squad training sessions which will be held every month. He will continue to teach Goshin Karate in the Buttrills Community Centre, and encourages others to continue their practice, but to use Kudo as the way to test their skills.

Can you help the Welsh Kudo team? For more information contact: malcolmsensei@gmail.com/ www.goshinkarate.org.uk.

## Emphatic win for the Llantwit Major under-12s

LAST Sunday Llantwit Major under-12s had an early 10am kick off at Brecon RFC.

After the previous week win over Llandaff North, Llantwit had high hopes of another victory in their sights.

It didn't take long for Llantwit to show Brecon they meant business; only two minutes had passed and from the very first scrum the ball was moved along the backs to the outside centre Ewan Heywood who ran 80 metres to score under the posts, with the conversion completed by Kieran Daw.

From the restart the Llantwit Major forwards kept Brecon under a lot of pressure and a loose kick by a Brecon player saw the ball land into the hands of Cole Saunders, the Llantwit Major fullback, who duly danced his way through the defence to score in the far right hand corner; the try went unconverted.

Again from the restart the Llantwit forwards recycled the ball out to the outside half Kieran Daw, who sprinted to within five metres of Brecon's try line and then offloaded to the supporting Kofi Jones who scored to the right of the posts to make it 17-0.

Brecon came straight back at Llantwit and a lapse of concentration from the defending team saw them concede a converted try. The halftime score was 17-7.

The second half began with the Llantwit Major forwards dominating the breakdowns and set pieces. One breakdown allowed a move out to Kofi to allow him to break through to score his second try.

Llantwit then really started to pile on the points. From a solid scrum the ball was collected and passed out by scrum half Stephen Williams to Kieran, who put in a lovely looping kick into the hands of Kofi, who kindly offloaded to the supporting Ewan for him to score his second try; the conversion was kicked by Kieran.

Brecon again started to put together some good passages of play controlled by their outside half. It was one of these phases which saw the Brecon outside half break through the Llantwit defence, only for him to be tackled and the ball ripped from him by Cole, who went on to run half the length of the pitch to score his second try; Kieran again with the conversion.

With both teams starting to show signs of tiredness the game started to get messy, but one last show of brilliance saw Kofi sidestep his way to finish off the game under the posts. The conversion by Kieran made the final score 43-7.

Thanks to the parents for travelling to Brecon on international day and to all players involved from both teams for an enjoyable game of rugby.

Team: Rian Thomas, Owen David, Aled Leitch, Cole Saunders, Ewan Heywood, Isaac McBride, Jordan Griffith-Lee, Jacob Pereira, Kieran Daw, Kofi Jones, Morgan Thomas, Rhodri Richards, Sam Deere, Sam Jenkins, Sennan Cummings-Jones, Spencer Williams and Stephen Williams.

MD

## Kenfig Hill Seconds are just pipped in a league thriller!

KENFIG HILL seconds welcomed Heol Y Cyw to Kenfig Hill for a league match between two of the top teams in the district.

The Mules fielded a young team with many of the forward stalwarts missing; however the team that took the field had plenty of talent and contributed to an excellent game of rugby.

Heol Y Cyw held the upper hand in the tight and always looked to apply pressure at the driving maul.

Heol Y Cyw also possessed speed behind the pack and looked dangerous whenever they moved the ball to their wings.

They opened the scoring with two unanswered tries before Mules scrum half Dan Heatley dummied and crashed over from close range following sustained pressure from the Mules' eight.

Heol Y Cyw responded with a third try following a five yard scrum which saw their number 8 break from the base of the scrum and score wide out. This left the halftime score Kenfig Hill 5, Heol Y Cyw 15.

The Mules upped a gear at the start of the second half and hooker Chris Leyshon broke blind from a ruck 40 yards out and outraced the covering defence to score a fine individual try.

The Mules continued to put Heol Y Cyw under pressure and Leyshon crossed for his second try with a low drive from five yards. This was converted by outside half Lee Rogers to give Kenfig Hill the lead for the first time in the match at 17-15.

Heol y Cyw then



ABOVE: Mike Kennedy crosses for a try and BELOW: Chris Leyshon in possession.

PICTURES BY PETER GILLING.



scored an excellent try themselves with their speedy backline showing some fine interpassing to score wide out and thereby regain the lead, albeit only for a short time as the Mules responded with a crisp backline move which saw replacement centre Mike Kennedy take a short ball on the burst to score close to the posts.

The try was converted by fellow centre Connor O'Connell to put the Mules back into the lead, 24-20.

Heol Y Cyw intensified the pressure and kept the Mules in their 22 for the final five minutes of the game.

The last play of the game was a Kenfig Hill scrum on the 22 metre line with the Mules

knowing that all they had to do was clear their lines for victory. But the ball was won against the head and the speedster in Heol Y Cyw's backline showed the Mules defence a clean pair of heels to score in the corner leaving Heol Y Cyw winners, 25-24.

This was a first class game of rugby, well refereed by ex-Muler Carl Vincent who ensured the game flowed for the full 80 minutes.

Both teams should be congratulated on putting on a thoroughly enjoyable spectacle with the result in doubt up to the final second.

Credit should also go to the Mules back row, which contained two full backs making their debut in the scrum. DHD



## ON AND OFF THE TURF WITH BRIAN LEE

**CRICKHOWELL** born and bred Joanna Morgan, who is a living legend in horse racing circles, and who recently announced her retirement, has ridden winners in America, Japan, Australia, Dubai and in many other countries besides.

She was the first female to ride at Royal Ascot and also saddled a winner there when her Rocca Tumu landed the Britannia Handicap in 2013.

She was the first of her sex to ride in an Irish Classic and the first to be placed in one when she was third on El Cito, in the 1980 Irish St Leger.

Joanna, who rode more than 200 winners before hanging up her riding boots to concentrate on training horses, was presented with a life time achievement award by the Irish Sports Council/ Irish Times last year and is now in Ireland's Hall of Fame.

She should now be inducted into the Welsh sports' hall of fame and I call upon the committee members to look into the great achievements of this former Welsh point-to-point rider.

### CAPPA BLEU

Llancarfan trainer Evan Williams has announced the retirement of his former Grand National runner-up Cappa Bleu, after the 13-year-old was pulled up in the Weatherbys Hamilton Chase at Ascot on Saturday.

The 2009 Cheltenham Foxhunters Chase winner was also third in the 2009 Welsh Grand National at Chepstow and also finished fourth in the 2012 Aintree spectacular.

I still maintain that if the Aintree run-in hadn't been shortened in 2013 when Cappa Blue finished a fast

finishing second under regular rider Paul Moloney to Aurora's Encore, he might well have won the race and become the first horse trained in Wales to have won since Kirkland in 1905.

Evan notched up his 56th winner at Ffos Las on Sunday when his five-year-old Wabanaki took the maiden open National Hunt flat.

Ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, Wabanaki, the odds-on favourite, scored by nine lengths from Chief Brody.

**BOBS LAW WINS DUNRAVEN**  
Only five horses faced the starter for Wales' richest hunter chase the Dunraven Welsh Foxhunters Open Hunter Chase staged at Ffos Las and two previous winners fought out the finish.

Bobs Law, partnered by Mr C Gethings, got home by a head from the odds-on favourite Universal Soldier, ridden by Ogmore's Nick Williams.

Bobs Law is trained by Mickey Bowen whose father Peter Bowen had won the previous mares' handicap hurdle race with the top weighted Princess Tara.

### WELSH POINT-TO-POINT SEASON UNDER WAY

The South Wales and Monmouthshire Point-To-Point season gets under way on Sunday with the first of the two Currie & Llangibby fixtures at Howick near Chepstow.

The first race is at 12 noon and a number of horses and riders from the Vale are expected to take part.

The trainer in form is Merthyr Mawr's Jonathan Tudor, who has already saddled three winners from just six runners.

BRIAN LEE

## Cowbridge youth teams in Cup action

**BOTH Cowbridge RFC youth teams were in action last Saturday in the Welsh Cup and Bowl.**

At the Athletic Field Cowbridge entertained Bridgend Athletic in a game that was a credit to both teams and an great advert for youth rugby.

In an exciting match Cowbridge BC team won 22-15 - but it was tense! In winning the game the team extended their winning run to 20 games in all competitions in the last 12 months.

Bridgend scored first when with five minutes gone their outside half rounded the rush defence to score wide out.

Cowbridge hit back with a score for debutant prop Eddie Drake who broke

through several tackles from 10 metres out to crash over. Outside half Alex Guard was just wide with the conversion.

Bridgend added a penalty, but just before half time, and after a number of phases in attack, wing Zac Summerhayes finished off a move after No 8 Dan Holder picked up at the back of the scrum and fed the ball to scrum half Tom Lucas to put Summerhayes over in the corner. The half time score was 10-8.

In the second half after good play between both teams hooker Will Haines put Cowbridge further ahead when he broke through the defence to dive over under the posts for a try that Guard converted.

With about 15 minutes to go Bridgend's scrum half scored a great try from 15 metres out, brushing off a tackle to go under the posts for a converted try to make it 17-15.

However, Cowbridge had the last word with a kick across field by full back Joss Thomas (that he says he intended) caught by centre Cameron Gibbon, who swivelled out of a tackle to race to the line from 25 metres.

The last 10 minutes was all action but credit to second row Matt Lock, as he stole a line

out from the opposition to allow a clearing kick, the final score of 22-15. A great team effort led from the front by captain Dan Holder.

The BD youth team were up against it at Ystradgynlais and gave their all, going down 22-5.

Ystrad have been sweeping all before them this season, and with a much bigger pack they were very strong in the tight play meaning possession was hard to come by; the half time score was 19-0.

Huge credit to the players as they stuck to their task and scored a great try when full back Jon Nexmand finished off a move through the hands.

With Ystrad only managing a penalty Cowbridge took the second half by 3-5, the final score 22-5.

The BC youth now go into the semi final at a neutral venue on March 7 where they will face Pontypridd, Aberavon Quins or Penallta.

This Saturday the 1st XV have a must-win game at home to Old Penarthians; the BC youth are billed to be at home to Llanishen and the BD youth away at Taffs Well - all kick offs are at 2.30pm.

RV/RK

# Wales women salvage pride with win over the world champions!



*While the Welsh senior men's team were on the losing end against England, the women's team salvaged some pride for the country with a comprehensive 13-0 win over the current world champions.*

*JULIE HANCOCK was on hand to capture the action.*

*Of local note were local stars Robyn Wilkins and Mel Clay who play for Pencoed Phoenix, Clay picking up her first cap in the best of circumstances!*



Robyn Wilkins and Mel Clay.

## Sully Seniors are defeated

**HAVING won their section of the league, Sully senior team qualified for the national play-offs and were drawn to play Selway (Llanelli) in the quarter finals at Pontardawe.**

Selway were represented by a number of former internationals and Sully were expecting a tough afternoon but with a strong side available on the day Sully were confident of success.

The Pontardawe rink was running at a nice pace with players able to play good drawing bowls on all hands which allowed for a good game proven by some early excellent bowling.

After the first five ends the game was level at 17-17, with Brian Griffiths' rink the only Sully rink behind, down by seven.

The game continued to be close and by the 10th end there was only two shots in the game with Sully ahead 35-33.

Griffiths' rink finally succumbed losing 16-19, while the rink of Roy Richards, Mike Doyle, Brian Foscolo and Fred Phillips ended up as Sully's only winning rink, 20-17.

It was a great effort from the Sully team and the loss by 15 shots wasn't a fair reflection on the game, however the players are already looking forward to next season.

opposition two fours, one from a weighted bowl from McLeod which hit the jack, which bounced back off a back bowl back up the green to four woods belonging to Selway!

The other four came from a misdirected bowl from the opposition's skip which come off an outside bowl and moved the jack for a count of four.

This appeared to deflate the Sully rink who from being 19-13 up did not score on the last six ends, eventually losing 19-27.

The rink of Dave Snelling lost their way after holding seven on the ninth end until the Selway skip drew the shot with his last wood resulting in Snelling's rink only winning two out of the next 12 ends.

The rinks of Phillips and Griffiths were fighting hard to cover the other rinks but the difference was too great and both were attempting to pull off difficult shots to pull back the deficit.

Griffiths' rink finally succumbed losing 16-19, while the rink of Roy Richards, Mike Doyle, Brian Foscolo and Fred Phillips ended up as Sully's only winning rink, 20-17.

It was a great effort from the Sully team and the loss by 15 shots wasn't a fair reflection on the game, however the players are already looking forward to next season.

**Overall result: Sully 70, Selway 85. Rink scores (Sully first): D Snelling 15, P Richardson 22, B Griffiths 16, K Thomas 19, K McLeod 19, D Davies 27, F Phillips 20, B Kingdon 17.**

FP

## Llantwit under-14s are on lookout for players



Llantwit Major under-14s at Cadriff Arms Park.

**LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC under-14s are on the lookout to bring in some new talent into our squad.**

With the Six Nations in full swing it's a good opportunity for anyone interested in giving rugby a go in school year 9 to come along. Llantwit Major RFC is a club at the heart of the community. We pride ourselves in being able to develop future stars and encourage a high but fun work ethic. The age group play

frequently at the Cardiff Arms Park and test their abilities against teams from across the Blues region as well as challenging themselves at force conditioning gym in Llandow.

We believe in giving every one of our players the ample game time they deserve and also try to create a good team environment by doing team building events such as paintballing and swimming.

We have planned a short tour down to Bristol at the end of the season as well as

planning a big tour at under-16s level.

If you or your child want to give rugby a go in a fun, friendly and professional setup then look no further than Llantwit Major.

Rugby experience isn't essential as our coaching team will provide training to bring them up to speed with the rest of the squad.

For more information please contact Kris Pilcher on 07557128861 or email kpilch@hotmail.co.uk.

KP

## Bridge results

**RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for February 17:**

1st Liam Sheridan & John Beard 65.77%, 2nd Tony Disley & John Evans 60.42%, 3rd Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 57.14%.

LE



# BRIAN LEE'S (POINT-TO-POINT) BLAST FROM THE PAST - 1985

**THIS week, The GEM's Brian Lee, who has been reporting on the Welsh Hunt Racing scene for almost half-a-century, looks back at some of the top racing stories of 1985.**

Under the heading 'Hamer's Shock Victory' I reported that "Welsh champion point-to-point rider Paul Hamer of Coychurch, Bridgend, partnered his brother Geoffrey's Yellow Jersey to a shock 25-1 win in the £5,000 Audi Grand Prix de Chasse at Sandown Park yesterday.

"Aged 24, Paul, who was having his first ride since being injured in a fall at the Carmarthen Hunt a fortnight ago, was chalking up his first winner under Rules. Paul, who has ridden 47 winners between the flags, drives a lorry for a living while his brother Geoffrey, who trains the horse, is employed in a Cardiff betting shop.

"Paul, who used to compete in local gymkhanas alongside his friend Neil Doughty, who won last year's Grand National on Hallo Dandy, said: 'Yellow Jersey dropped himself out about four fences from home but he rallied on again.' Yellow Jersey, who is hunted with Llangeinor, took on the big guns of point-to-pointing and his win has given Welsh hunt-racing a tremendous boost.

"Paul is bound to come in for some well deserved back slapping at today's Pentyrch Hunt at Llantwit Major where he has several rides."

At that meeting, under the heading 'First Win After 17 Years', my report read: "One rider rode his 100th winner and another had his first at the Pentyrch Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases. Newport's Steve Shinton, aged 33, who has been riding for 17 years, finally made it into the winners' enclosure when the family-owned seven-year-old brown gelding Beruto landed the second division of the Maiden.

"Basaleg's Tim Rooney, who has ridden nine hunter chase winners, brought his total number of wins to 100 when chalking up his 91st success between-the-flags on 14-year-old Crosstown, who is owned by Barry farmer Ted Williams.

"Crosstown, who had finished runner-up in his previous four races, came home four lengths clear of Final Clear in the Adjacent.

"In the four-mile Open for the Welsh Point-To-Point Grand National, odds-on favourite French Bob looked like he was going to win his fourth race in a row, but he ran out approaching the last leaving Purple Haze, ridden by Wade Willis, to finish one-and-a-half lengths ahead of August Moon, with the 1983 winner Mr Moneybags a further length away in third spot.

"Tarnya Davis had the Ladies' Open won on Daintly Dolly when Luchello came down three from

home and Grenville Richards' mare was winning for the third time this season.

"Tim Lewis rode a well judged race on Sporting Tack to win the Members by six lengths from Quiz Master with last year's winner Grand Trianon a further eight lengths back in third place."

For the record, Bridgend butcher Jon Tudor won the restricted on Trailing Rose.

One point-to-point rider who was rarely out of the headlines was Cowbridge farmer John Llewellyn and under the heading 'Llewellyn Gets His 150th Win' I revealed: "John Llewellyn from Cowbridge reached a milestone in his riding career when landing his 150th winner at the Llangeinor Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases.

"Llewellyn, aged 38, got Mr Money Bags home by a neck in the Men's Open to reach his 140th win between-the-flags and his 10 wins under rules made it a historic 150 altogether. Llewellyn, who made history a couple of years ago by becoming the first Welshman to win the National risers' championship outright, made it win 151 when scoring on Young Sugar Bush in the maiden.

"He now has a two point lead over Tim Rooney in the Welsh riders' championship. Bridgend's Jon Tudor, who is enjoying his best ever season, won the Members' race on Island Mist who was left in the lead when Rose Stuart came down at the second last fence.

"Final Flirtation, a 33-1 outsider, came to the aid of the bookmakers when landing the adjacent from Linkville who was half-a-length down at the winning post. Final Flirtation, a half-sister to Dudley Cup winner Norman Case, was ridden by 21-year-old David Llewellyn.

"David's brother Carl, aged 19, who is assistant trainer to Bristol's Jim Old won the Restricted Open on Yukon Tina."

Carl Llewellyn and David Llewellyn are not related to Cowbridge's John Llewellyn. They are from west Wales and, of course, Carl went on to ride two Grand National winners in Party Politics (1992) and Earth Summit (1998). Perhaps David's claim to fame is that he is the owner, breeder and trainer of Lady Dudley Cup winner and prolific point-to-pointer Rosies Peacock.

These days, Shropshire's Lucy Crow is a well-known leading trainer of point-to-pointers. However, back then she was a leading rider and under the heading 'Lucy's Journey Proves In Vain', I reported: "Leading lady rider Lucy Crow made a four hour journey from north Shropshire to ride at the Ystrad Hunt Point-To-Point at Llantwit Major. But her long trek proved disappointing, as she could only finish fourth on odds-on Optimum in the Ladies' Open Race.

"The race was won by 18-year-old Heather

McCaul, who rode a stylish finish on Violet Higg's Magic Rock to win by six lengths from Red Spirit, partnered by Rhonda's Shajn Morgan. Another young rider in good form was Caerphilly's Tim Jones who took the Adjacent on Ann Holly's MS Largesse who was winning for the third time this season.

"Jones, aged 19, is the son of the late Lloyd Jones, who was killed in a race riding accident some years ago. Mr Moneybags, one of the toughest point-to-pointers in training, who was having his fourth race in as many weeks, won the Men's Open under Cowbridge's John Llewellyn by a distance from Friday's Meadow, with Pipegate a further distance away in third place."

Mrs Shan Farr, formerly Miss Shan Morgan (she married Aberthyn farmer Ross Farr) has a daughter Emily who has ridden point-to-point winners in the Vale as well as in New Zealand, and it is nice to be reporting on the successes of the sons and daughters of the mothers and fathers I was writing about all those years ago.

Under the heading 'Shan Holds Off Late Challenge', this is how my report dated April 23, 1985, of the Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point read: "Norman Jones' ex-Irish chaser Luchello made nearly all the running to win the first division of the Ladies' Open at the Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases.

"Confidently ridden by Rhonda's Shan Morgan, Luchello easily held off the late challenge of odds-on favourite Dainty Dolly. The second division went to outsider Magic Rock who gave Heather McCaul her first winning ride in just four races.

"Heather, aged 18, from Hereford rode a stylish finish to score by half a length from the odds-on favourite Mickley That. Caerphilly's Mike Bishop saw his promising seven-year-old Timebreaker score a comfortable win over 14-year-old Hobo in the Adjacent hunts race.

"Timebreaker was the first leg of a double for Tim Rooney who later landed a division of the maiden on Savage Sally. Cowbridge farmer John Llewellyn also had a double with the grey Suiker Bos in the members' race and Master Straight in the first division of the Men's Open.

"Schoolteacher Peter Murphy, aged 38, who has been riding for only two seasons, chalked up his first winner when 13-year-old Suntan Susie, who he owns in partnership with Mike Hodges, won division two of the Maiden.

"St Athan farmer John Thomas took the first division on Cyril Liley's five-year-old Ocean Boy who beat Ardcen by half-a-length."

You can e-mail your point-to-point memories/pictures to [brianlee4@virginmedia.com](mailto:brianlee4@virginmedia.com) or phone him on 02920736438.

BRIAN LEE

## Pupils' cross-country success



The girls did Llantwit Major School proud.

ON Wednesday, February 11, five girls from Llantwit Major School travelled to Brecon to represent the Cardiff/Vale team in their various age groups.

It was a dry but very cold day, the snow topped hills in the distance making a picturesque view for the runners.

Ellie Atkinson and Erin Hayes were members of the senior team. They both had excellent races,

finishing second and 10th out of a field of 50 runners. Their excellent performances helped the team finish second in a tough competition.

Hannah Jones represented the middle girls team, Alisha Hayes the junior girls team which finished second in the competition and Erin McCloughlin the year 7 team which finished third in the competition - well done to all girls.

Congratulations also go to Erin Hayes who gained her first Welsh vest for cross-country when she represented the Welsh team in the Cardiff cross challenge competition in January. **SB**

## Barry Seconds progress in Cup at Caerau's expense

**BARRY 2nd XV welcomed the visit of Caerau Ely, who were on the back of a defeat by Barry's 1st XV, to the Reservoir Fields for a Mallet Cup second round tie.**

A spate of players unavailable due to touring Scotland for the Six Nations, and also Valentine's Day commitments, meant that coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow gave a first start for Jordan Clarke on the wing, while there were also recalls for James Hadfield and Josh Flynn after long-term injuries.

The home side started with an extra step in their stride, possibly because of the long time since they played a competitive game, and the visitors found it difficult to live with that tempo. With Hadfield, Dominic Busuttill and Sion Vidal to the fore, Barry pinned their opponents early on as they pressed for the opening score.

After Ashley Adams had wasted an early penalty opportunity from kickable distance, Barry's pressure was rewarded when Dave Evans' crunching tackle saw the ball spilled by Caerau, and Hadfield

was on hand to open the scoring with a simple try. Adams added the extras.

Then the floodgates opened. Shifting the ball quickly out wide, Barry negated the power of the Caerau forwards to send Jamie Oaten galloping through from midfield, and despite seemingly running out of gas towards the line, he managed to touch down for a second converted try.

With still 10 minutes to go from halftime, the game seemed all but over when Hadfield once again finished off a fine Barry move to score underneath the posts, with the conversion a formality.

Hadfield, however, injured himself in the process, and his withdrawal sparked a mini revival from the visitors who laid siege to the Barry line, but were repelled by some typically stern tackling from John Miles, Lee Jones and Evans. At the interval the score was 21-0.

With the other scorer Oaten also withdrawn at halftime, Caerau sensed a chance of a comeback. However, that was quickly thwarted when quick ball generated by the Barry forwards and scrum-half Gallivan gave Adams the opportunity to score a well-

worked try. He converted the try himself to put Barry out of sight.

Using a combination of forward power and slick passing from the backs, Barry would add two more tries before the end. Gallivan was the first to profit from a close-range effort, before Busuttill crashed over underneath the posts showing great determination and power.

To their credit, the visitors rallied late on with only 13 men and were rewarded rightly with an unconverted try at the death, making the final score 42-5, but the day ultimately belonged to Barry, who have now dispatched two of the favourites for the cup in the last two rounds.

The 1st XV will host Llandaff North this weekend, while the 2nd XV will return to action on March 7 when they play Llanishan at home.

Team: Mephram; Poole, Busuttill, Evans, Clarke; Adams, Gallivan; Morris, Vidal, Corne; Jones ©, Oaten; Miles, Hadfield, Rolfe. Replacements: Thomas, Flynn, Westall, Dimond. Man of the match: Miles.

KC

SEE HOWARD POOLE'S PICTURES ON PAGE 36

## Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday, February 10, the first round matches in the men's doubles were played at the Edmondson Arms and Llanharry Working Men's Club.

It was a good night for doubles pairs from the Highwayman Inn with Wayne Morgan and Steve Sylvester, Ashley Baker and Dave Lowden and Lee Jones and Adam Sheppard all winning.

The remaining winning doubles pairs were Rob McCaver and Paul Ward (Hare & Hounds), Tony Fox and Dave Thomas (Farmers Arms), Lee Davies and Morgan John (Llanharry), Trevor Morgan and Cedric Simmonite and Steve Simmonite and Rhys Jury (Edmondson's A').

Present league standings after 14 matches, are: Llanharry (105 points), Edmondson B (81), Highwayman Inn (70), Edmondson A (69), Hare and Hounds (60), Farmer's Arms and Edmondson C (46) and Old Post Ladies (25).

On Tuesday, February 24, there is a full programme of league matches. The Highwayman Inn hosts the Edmondson A, the Edmondson C hosts the Farmers Arms, the Edmondson B hosts the Hare and Hounds and Llanharry hosts the Old Post Ladies. All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at [cowbridgedarts@gmail.com](mailto:cowbridgedarts@gmail.com); up-to-date information can be found at [darts.apsn.co.uk](http://darts.apsn.co.uk). **PJT**

## Wolves have too much bite for Rhoose

AFTER the heavy rain on Friday, the pitch was in very good condition for this game between Dinas Wolves under-12s and Rhoose.

The visitors had instructions to press high and move the ball as fast as they could. Doing this throughout the game gave the villagers so many opportunities.

Goals came thick and fast in the opening 30 minutes with an absolute cracker from Jake Frost. Kieran Quest and Kyle Booker bossed the wings and offered wide while Tylor Williams, Jacob Moss, Robson Mallum gave the team a great platform to work off.

Dylan Morris played such a high line in goals there was little space to

get in behind the Dinas team.

Going forward Wolves play with such verve and the movement was so lively they cut through the home side to score some great team goals.

The boys train very hard on a style of play so they know where and when to go and their work rate for each is other is a joy to watch.

Man of the match Callum Hewitson scored with a great overhead kick, with goals from Jake Frost, Jake Lewis (3), Kyle Booker (2), Joe Doughty (2), Cole Saunders, Callum Hewitson (3), Bayley Harewood (2) and an own goal.

The lads wish Zak, Connor and leuan a speedy recovery.

LS



## Young skaters have bright future ahead

TWO young figure skaters from the Vale have recently been selected for the British development squad.

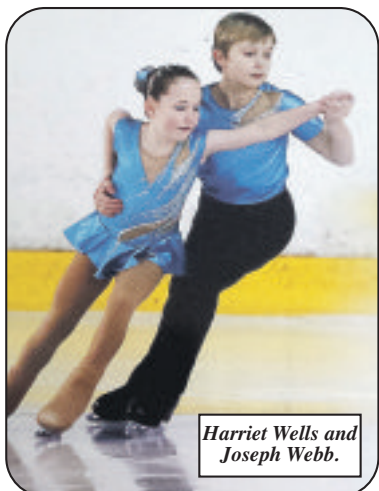
Harriett Wells (8), and Joseph Webb (11), started skating when Harriett was four and Joseph was seven.

They got together as a pair when they were six and nine. Harriett and Joseph entered their first competition in Basingstoke at this young age, were placed third and competed in Bradford again a year later and placed first.

Harriett and Joseph have dedicated the last year to their skating tests and in December passed their level 1 and 2 and have recently been put in for their level 3.

The pair train at Cardiff Planet Ice five times a week, some days getting on the ice for 6am.

Harriett goes to Ysgol Sant Curig in Barry and



Harriett Wells and Joseph Webb.

the school is very supportive of her.

She is currently on the development squad as a single skater, as well as a pair.

Joseph started skating on a family day out; he got on the ice and took to it like a duck to water and never looked back.

He goes to St Iltyds Primary in Llantwit Major, where the school have always offered him lots of encouragement.

Recently, Harriett and Joseph appeared on ITV Wales News, talking about their skating, and have taken part in other filming programmes and

have been lucky enough to skate with celebrities. Harriett and Joseph are the youngest pair in Britain on the development squad and are working towards competing in the British championships in November 2015.

They are both really excited about going to their new home in Cardiff Ice Arena Wales.

The families are looking for sponsorship to help the pair with training and kit.

If anyone can help, please contact Owen on 07968 734042.

AW

## The Barry & District ladies skittle league results

RESULTS for week commencing February 2:

**First Division:** Allorts (C Griffiths, C Brewer 26) 281, Pila Palas (H Say, J Griffiths 27) 245; Coppers (S Curtis 37) 322, Castaways (M Wilder 34) 315; SV Gals (K Hawkins 32) 297, Barry Stars (N Jones 33) 275; Colcot Lds (S Howcroft 29) 246, Family Affair (N Jones 24) 234; Red Admiral (Steph Clements 275) 266, Family & Friends (J Phillips 33) 273; Space Finders (E Worthy 33) 327, Baker's Dozen (Western 40) 340; Special Angels (T Jones 26) 225, Cigar Lds (J Price 29) 269.

**Second Division:** Strikers (R Phillips 27) 202, SV Lights (N Alsop 25) 235; Roller Coasters (C Thomas 265) 209, After Eights (I Havard 23) 221; Witchill Widows (L Spyrou 34) 291, Divas (A Bird 30) 238; Vixens (L Gasworthy 32) 278, Witchill Weebies (J Byrne 29) 253; Bobby's Girls (S Sugden 29) 257, Rhooose

Starlighters (P Tucknutt, E Davies 24) 236; Castle Bandits (D Collard, C Kerslake 26) 235, Breakaways (C Parfitt 27) 227; Clickies (M Williams 33) 324, Cad Con Fillies (V Heard 32) 284.

**Third Division:** Rhooose Ravers (J Lott 31) 244, Dolly Mixtures (P Bayham 24) 246; Jolly Dollies (V Jackson 31, K Taylor 22) 268, Hill Billies (J Lambeth 223) 207; Airways Angels (J Thomas, E Jones 26) 243, Westenders (G Somers 27) 253; Rugby Tiers (K Britton 25) 216, Persuaders (K Scott 23) 268; SV Lds (M Lacny 32) 285, Friends & Neighbours (E Weston 36) 272; Lil's Devils (J Davies 25) 215, Merry Makers (C Morse 25) 204.

**Fifth Division:** Nite Outers (L White 34) 167, Billy Bunter (G Loveless 30) 239.

## Sully bowls team lose to top flight Newport

SULLY indoor bowls championship team travelled to Newport last Saturday for their final league game with great expectancy, yet suffered a humiliating defeat.

Newport always field a strong team and Saturday was no exception with a number of current and past internationals playing, therefore Sully had to play above the norm to force a result.

It was soon evident in the early ends that Newport were in no mood to make it easy for the visitors and went straight into a 19 shot lead, 18-37, by the end of the fifth.

At this point three Sully rinks of Martin Clarke, Ken McLeod and Brian Foscolo were actually competing strongly and were ahead by three, two and three shots respectively, but the rinks of Fred Phillips, Mat Woodcock and Brian Griffiths were struggling against some fine bowling from the Newport rinks skipped by Tom Nicholls, Mike Dick and Alan Bradford.

By the 10th end Newport piled on the pressure and had increased their lead to 30

shots, 38-68, with the Sully players way off form and continuing to struggle against a Newport team bowling at the top of their game.

At the three-quarter mark Newport were well ahead by an embarrassing 56 shots, 57-113, with still six ends to play. Only the rinks of Foscolo and McLeod were making a game of it, being level and one behind respectively.

By the 21st and final end, only Foscolo's rink of Graham Cogbill, Gary Eastment and Mike Doyle managed a fine win, beating an excellent Newport rink skipped by Brian Howard 21-19 by taking a three on the final

end. Unfortunately McLeod's rink, who had fought their way to the front by the 19th end, then dropped a two and a single on the last two ends to lose by one shot, 16-17.

The other Sully rinks didn't turn up on the day and all lost heavily but hopefully this will have given the newer players an insight as to where they have to be in the future to improve their chances of competing against the teams like Newport and Blaenau Gwent.

Match result: Sully (88) two points, Newport (135) 20 points.

FP

## Good results for young footballers

BARRY Town United under-19s recorded their third win in four competitive matches recently, with a thrilling 5-4 victory at Caldicot Town in Welsh League Youth Division East.

Goals from Adam Owens, Keir McNery, Bradley O'Loughlin (2) and Taylor Harris secured the points under the floodlights at Jubilee Way, moving the Town above AFC Porth, who they edged out 4-3 the previous weekend.

The under-14s, coming off a 5-2 triumph against Llantwit Major, battled hard to secure a point at St Athan, while goals from Joseff Rosser and Kenzie Ashton helped the under-12s come from two goals behind to earn a 2-2 draw against Dinas Powys.

AC

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DEPOSIT****FROM ONLY  
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HATCHBACK****FOR ONLY  
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# Athletic left 'disappointed' by win over Blackwood

**BRIDGEND** Athletic secured their second successive bonus point victory with a 38-10, six tries to one, victory at Blackwood.

Despite the victory, the Athletic supporters were disappointed by a patchy display on a gluepot of a pitch.

The first 15 minutes summed up the performance when a succession of passes were dropped, penalty kicks to touch failed to reach their targets and a surprising number of tackles were missed.

Sanity was restored in the 16th minute when the Athletic succumbed to taking the easy three points on offer with a penalty from outside half Robert Evans.

However this was not the stepping stone to a point's avalanche as a series of missed tackles saw Pontypool centre Ben Smell cross in the corner. The very lively Blackwood outside half James Dowle added the extras to put the home side 7-3 ahead.

Wing Dan Howells then broke out of his 22 and ran into the Blackwood 22. He won a line out 10 metres from the try line. Hooker

Nathan Holman found Sean Williams at the line out and then joined the catch and drive to touchdown wide out. Outside half Robert Evans added the conversion to put the Athletic 10-7 ahead.

Dowle levelled the scores with a penalty. In the closing stages of the half, another lineout catch and drive saw prop Wayne Fookes become joint top Athletic forward try scorer to give the Athletic a 15-10 half-time lead.

The Athletic started the second half with more purpose. They won a five-metre scrum and despite being heavily outweighed by the Blackwood eight, the superior scrummaging technique of the front row of Fooks, Holman and Rod Apsee saw the scrum heading to the try line at a rate of knots for No 8 Griff Davies to join Fooks on four tries for the season.

The Athletic backs finally came into the act. Scrum half Jake Williams broke and set up a maul and the ball was quickly recycled and passed through the hand of Evans and Michael Hathaway to co-centre Ryan Owen.

Owen broke through the defence, drew the

full back and put wing Dan Howells over wide out to extend his top try scorer total to seven for the season. It also secured the Athletic a bonus point.

Owen was again the provider for the fifth Athletic try. Good rucking by Tom Penry-Ellis and Ben Howe saw turnover ball for the Athletic and Owen ran 50 metres and put over wing Stuart Griffiths for his first Athletic try.

The sixth and final try came when full back Josh White gathered a clearance kick on half way and ran strongly into the Blackwood 22.

The ball was quickly passed along the line for man of the match Owen to join the four try club for the season as he ran in from 30 metres to secure a 38-10 victory for the Ath.

Team manager Paul Hearne summed up the overall feeling at the club: "Everything is positive having secured 25 points from the last seven league fixtures - though there are still aspects of play to work on. The club look forward to this weekend's cup tie at Carmarthen Quins with a full squad to select from."

AB

## Sports news from Brynteg Comprehensive School

### NETBALL

**M A N Y** congratulations to the following girls for getting into the Welsh Netball High Performance Hubs this year: Laurie Morris, Caitlin Davies and Ellie Davies (year-9) who are in the 'Development' squad and Bethan Johnson (year-10) who is the 'Performance' squad.

Congratulation also to the under-18 netball girls who won the district round of the President's Cup. Good luck in the next round.

They are: Emma Hobby, Bethan Johnson, Rebecca Murray, Chloe Dyke, Megan Jeffery, Alex Jones and Meghanna Davies.

### UNDER-14 FINALS

**THE under-14 hockey team have won their first pool matches of the Welsh Cup.**

They played St John's, first beating them 4-0 and then Porthcawl 2-0. It was a great team effort with a mixture of pupils from years 7, 8 and 9 but player of the day went to Megan Hooper.

They will now play one more game to try to become the county champions, the winner of which goes forward into the under-14 Welsh Cup finals.

### UNDER-16 FINALS

**THE under-16 team won their first pool matches for the Welsh Cup, beating both Cwm Rhymini and St John's, which set**

them up for a tough match against Aberdare Comprehensive.

The girls put in a very accomplished performance and won the game 1-0 with Bethan Johnson scoring the winning goal. This meant the Brynteg team then went on to represent the county in the Welsh Cup finals in Wrexham, North Wales.

At the finals, Brynteg faced a tough challenge in their first game, playing last year's winners Bishopston. They put in a solid defensive performance and improved on their score against them last year, but unfortunately lost the game.

Next they faced another seasoned opponent in Christ College Brecon, but kept their composure. Although the girls battled hard, they were on the wrong end of the score line again.

In their last pool game, they faced a team from north Wales - Brynhyfryd. The girls picked themselves up from two defeats and put in a great performance to win 2-0, with Carys Sheard and Brogan Thomas scoring the two goals.

Unfortunately, this was not enough to make the semi-finals, but Brynteg finished a respectable fifth place in Wales, and represented the school exceptionally well.

Team captain, Carys Sheard, commented: "We battled hard with some good team performances, but got a tough draw against quality opposition."

"We enjoyed having the opportunity to play on a high quality astro-turf pitch and would benefit from practising on one more often, as the other teams we came up against are able to do."



Left to right: Laurie Morris, Caitline Davies, Ellie Davies and Bethan Johnson.



The under-16 hockey team.



The under-14 hockey team

## Bridgend Bridge Club

**THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent competitions are:**

Wednesday, February 11 - 1st Tony Disley and Glyn Williams, 2nd John Beard and Liam Sheridan, 3rd Irene Thomas and Graham Jones; winners on handicap Rob Forman and Alan Heath.

Friday, February 13 (club handicap pairs round two) - 1st Dave Reed and Jim Hume, 2nd Tony Disley and Dave Lee, 3rd John Moore and Mildred Trigg Knight; winners when handicap not used Tony Disley and Dave Lee.

Positions when both weeks scores used: 1st Emer Disley and Debbie Lee, 2nd Dave Reed and Jim Hume, 3rd John Moore and Mildred Trigg Knight. Congratulations to Emer Disley and Debbie Lee on being this year's winners.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to commence at 7pm so it

helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session. Master points are now awarded but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge. Further information can be obtained by calling Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

The results for Thursday, February 12 were: 1st Barrie Jenkins and Vanessa Beacham, 2nd John Hillman and Mari Jones, 3rd Dilys Bowser and V Irene Thomas.

The current course of lessons is coming to an end but there will be a new course later in the year.

To register an interest please contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

TG

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# SIX NATIONS RUGBY

SCOTLAND 23 Wales 26



## A CLOSE RUN THING IN BATTLE OF THE DEFENCES, BUT... Murrayfield recovery put Wales back on course for title bid

**A** YEAR AGO, one week after an insipid display against England, when they were crushed 19-28 at Twickenham, Wales partially rescued their 2014 Six Nations campaign with a resounding 51-3 victory over Scotland in almost a carnival atmosphere at the Millennium Stadium.

In a strange quirk of fate, the two teams faced each other again on Sunday last – in the wake of Wales' even more dismal display in the 16-21 surrender to England the week before.

However, this time the battlefield wasn't Cardiff, but Edinburgh, with Scottish rugby no longer in disarray, but now steadily advancing under the firm hand of their new Kiwi commander, head coach Vern Cotter, and bolstered by their battling display in losing 15-8 to France.

Even so, the Welsh camp were hoping that history would repeat itself and that the 120th cross-border clash between the two home nations since they first met 132 years ago (on January 8, 1883, at Raeburn) would add to their 24 victories and three draws – compared to the home team's 32 wins – on Scottish soil.

The overall match statistics also strongly favoured Wales – 68 wins compared to the Scots' 48 – with the Dragon having amassed a commanding total of 1,558 points against Scotland's 1,188.

Moreover, Wales had triumphed on the previous seven occasions, a run stretching back to 2008, when Kiwi head coach Warren Gatland first took over the reins – and the current squad had the added incentive of needing to make amends for the failures against England and justify his decision to resist calls for drastic changes.

*"There are times when you have to make changes and others when you have to back the players, and the forwards get a chance to redeem themselves,"* he averred.

*"We probably got caught up in the way the (England) game played out; we need to be more expressive and play a bit more rugby. We have to get back on the horse."*

Skipper Sam Warburton gave a clear hint of the intense pressure the team was now under to perform, following criticism of the display against England: *"Teams are starting to play a bit less rugby against us and it's all about how we can adapt to that."*

He added: *"Scotland is a must-win game for us. We now need four victories to have a chance of winning the Six Nations title."*

In the event, a bruising encounter, packed with incident and controversy right to the end, at a Murrayfield stadium resounding to strains of *'Hymns and Arias'* from the massed ranks of red-festooned Welsh supporters, saw Scotland scoring a try in the 79th minute, but Wales squeaking home 26-23 in a dramatic finale.

And drama there was in plenty, with Wales tightening up the loose kicking game that had been so costly against England and reverting to the familiar direct approach, taking the game to the Scots with ball in hand – in a way they had notably failed to do in Cardiff.

They quickly began to impose themselves and drew first blood with a penalty after five minutes, slotted over by the ever-reliable Leigh Halfpenny.

The battling Scots responded, against the run of play, with a breakaway try by stylish full back Stuart Hogg, converted by scrum half and captain Greig Laidlaw, to give an early reminder that they were not to be taken

### BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John



*Pictures by the Huw Evans Agency.*

lightly. More chances went a-begging through a combination of Scottish over-eagerness, poor decision making, and basic handling errors, but Wales were forced to concede an easy penalty, which Laidlaw slotted over to make the score 10-3.

Then it was the Scots' turn to offend and Halfpenny cut the arrears with a simple penalty of his own. With the visitors now increasingly dominating possession, they inexplicably turned down another three points with a kickable penalty – opting instead to drive for the line. The pack lost possession, leading to a Scottish scrum and the home defence held firm.

A controversial turning point came when Scotland outside half Finn Russell upended his opposite number Dan Biggar in a dangerous aerial challenge and was handed a yellow card by New Zealand referee Glen Jackson (who was to come in for criticism for this and other decisions) on the grounds that the player's actions were not 'intentional'.

*(That, though, was not a defence accepted when Wales captain Sam Warburton was controversially shown a red card in the 2011 Rugby World Cup semi-final against France!)*

One wonders what certain commentators who felt that a yellow card was punishment enough, would have said if a helpless Biggar had been gravely injured in the incident?

On this note, where players' health and safety is concerned, officials have a clear duty to be consistent, particularly with another RWC imminent. Not surprisingly, the player concerned was cited by the match commissioner. As this column has previously noted, a yellow card was surely intended only for technical offences. If nothing else, such incidents highlight the need for further clarity on this whole contentious issue.

In the event, Russell's ten minute absence proved costly to his side – as first Halfpenny brought Wales to a single point deficit (10-9), and then scrum half Rhys Webb added to his remarkable scoring exploits in a red jersey by rounding off a move which Halfpenny converted from wide out.

When Jonathan Davies incurred the wrath of the referee and controversially joined



**LEFT:** Scrum half Rhys Webb points try scorer Jonathan Davies towards the posts. Earlier (ABOVE) he had added to his own remarkable try tally for Wales.

continuing set-piece problems.

However, they now have an extra week to prepare for the next match in Paris on Saturday, February 28, against a French team that is yet to fire, but has a formidable pack who will be out to exploit any weaknesses up front.

*That should be warning enough for Wales to get this aspect of their act together!*



*Welsh outside half Dan Biggar claims the ball, but is propelled high into the air in an incident that underlines the urgent need for a tightening of the laws concerning aerial challenges.*

Russell in the 'sin-bin' for a far less serious misdemeanour, it was Wales' turn to come under renewed pressure, but the defence held firm, to go into halftime 16-10 in the lead.

The margin was almost immediately narrowed to 16-13 in the second period with the return of Russell, when Wales were penalised and Laidlaw made no mistake, but Davies' return to the field saw Wales turn the screw, resulting in a penalty award.

Halfpenny's attempt hit an upright but bounced the right way and when the Welsh scrum, which had inevitably been expected to struggle in the absence of tight head Samson Lee, won a rare ball against the head, only the scrum half's fumble foiled a seemingly certain touchdown.

In fact, it was Scotland who added to their score with a Laidlaw penalty and the tension was ratcheted up further when a try by lively wing Liam Williams was disallowed for obstruction, and then Halfpenny for once missed with a penalty attempt.

At 19-16 and with eyes already turning to the clock, both sides knew that the next score would be decisive – and in fact it was Jonathan Davies who powered through for a gifted try under the posts, which Halfpenny converted to make the score 26-16.

Scotland were not finished yet and launched yet another determined attack, only thwarted by a herculean Welsh defence, and a pass that was adjudged forward.

They were not to be long denied, however, and pummeled away at the Welsh line, ironically-named replacement Welsh finally hurling himself through a pile of bodies for a try, converted by Laidlaw, to make the score 26-23.

As the final whistle blew, it was celebration time in Edinburgh for the ecstatic army of Welsh fans who had made the long journey north to witness their mightily relieved team get their Six Nations campaign back on track.

As ever when these two Celtic rivals meet, it was a hard-fought, high-scoring affair, not lacking in passion and commitment, and the Welsh camp will relish the improved display – though a high penalty count (on both sides) will be a cause for concern – as will Wales'